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OLYMPIC
SPECIAL

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

August 22, 2008 - August 28, 2008

NO. 377 CN11-0120

HTTP://BJTODAY.YNET.COM

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Even without her son's medical expenses to motivate her, 33-year-old gymnast Oxana Chusovitina took a silver home to the country that saved her boy.

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北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

Under the auspices of the Information Office of Beijing Municipal Government ■ Run by Beijing Youth Daily ■ President: Zhang Yanping ■ Editor in Chief: Zhang Yabin ■ Executive Deputy Editor in Chief: He Pingping ■ Director: Jian Rong ■ Price: 2 yuan per issue ■ 26 yuan for 3 months ■ Address: No.25, Building A, Baijiazhuang Dongli, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China ■ Zip Code: 100026 ■ Telephone/Fax: (010) 65902525 ■ E-mail: bjtoday@ynet.com ■ Hotline for subscription: (010) 67756666 (Chinese), (010) 65902626 (English) ■ Overseas Code Number: D1545 ■ Overseas Distribution Agent: China International Book Trading Corporation



2 Lightning Bolt strikes twice in track

By Huang Daohen

The past weeks will be etched in the annals of Olympic history as athletes continuously redefined the limitations of man.

Swimmer Michael Phelps emerged from the water bearing eight gold medals for the US, as promised, and broke seven world records. The lightning Usain Bolt struck twice in track this week, leaving fellow runners behind.

Jamaican boy rewrites world sprint history

By Jin Zhu

Usain Bolt, 22, won the gold medal in the men's 200 meters Wednesday with a world record of 19.30 seconds. The brightest victory came four days after Bolt won the 100 meters, setting the world record in that event as well. As the first Olympic athlete since Carl Lewis in 1984 to achieve the feat, Bolt had etched his name into world sprint history.

Bolt's lightning show

Bolt, a Jamaican sprinter, showed lighting speed in the men's 200m final Wednesday. With a perfect speedup at the curved track, Usain Bolt won his second gold in 19.30 seconds, slicing 0.02 seconds off the world record Michael Johnson set in Atlanta 12 years ago.

The win made Bolt the happiest in Jamaica, as his entourage leapt into celebration. Spectators at the Bird's Nest sang the birthday song to the excited young man, who turned 22 the next day.

The Jamaican became the fastest man in the world by capturing the gold in the men's 100m in 6.69 seconds last Saturday. With 30 meters to go, Bolt looked around and realized he was in a class all his own. So confident was he that he had coasted, stretched

out his arms and pounded his chest before crossing the line.

In fact, Bolt was holding a relaxed mood in his race. "I am just going out there all the time to do my thing and show the world I am probably the best," Bolt said in a media conference, "I am not really worried about world records. I am just coming here to win. That is the aim for me."

Despite having a tradition of producing world-class sprinters, it is the first time for a Jamaican to win both men's 100m and 200m gold medals at the Olympics. Bolt attributes his victory to his choice fuel: the yam. He has always been partial to the vegetable grown in the northwestern area of Jamaica where he was born, Wellesley Bolt told Reuters after his son won in the men's 100m.

The times of Jamaica

Fifteen minutes after Bolt's win, Melaine Walker added another gold medal for Jamaica in 52.64 seconds in the women's 400m hurdles Wednesday night.

By right of personal best performance in 10.78 seconds, Ann Fraser led the other two Jamaican sprinters to sweep the women's 100m medals last Sunday.

"We made history. Just like last Saturday Bolt set a new world

record. We are all great athletes and I am very excited about the tremendous achievements we have made for our country," Simpson told Xinhua in an interview after the competition.

Support policy in Jamaica

Jamaica's great achievements in sprint can be partially attributed to its government support. Track and field programs start as early as kindergarten level, with children as young as four running in championships at the country's national stadium. In Jamaica, a country marred by broken fences, bad roads and high levels of crime, education and sport are seen as keys to a better life.

Western countries are only now showing their appreciation for Jamaican sprinters, and are attracting them with favorable scholarships. Many of these emigrants won gold medals at the Olympics, such as Donovan Bailey in 100m in 1996.

The government formulated a support policy providing favorable treatment to world-class athletes who stay in Jamaica. Many famous sprinters, such as Usain Bolt and Asafa Powell, have benefited from this policy.



Bolt struck again Wednesday to claim the 200m gold, leaving fellow runners in the dust.
Photo by Jinxi Hu

Is this why Usain Bolt slowed down?

Though Bolt crossed the finish line to win a gold in the men's 200m final, his jogging over the line Sunday left spectators wondering what the record would have been had he not slowed.

It's a question event organizers around the world will be asking themselves too. And Bolt could make a fortune from it.

The Jamaican will hardly be short of money after his dramatic triumph; sponsors and brands will be queuing to get a piece of the fastest man on earth. But if he has it in him to run 100m below 9.6 seconds, it certainly was not in his interests to do so at the Olympics.

It seems churlish to suggest Bolt deliberately held himself back on the promise of some future pay-out, but there's no doubt prize money is a very potent performance enhancer. Athletes are not paid to compete in the Olympics, but promoters of international athletics meetings offer huge bonuses to athletes who break records. Obliterating records in one fell swoop does not make financial sense.

During the 1980s and 90s, the Ukrainian Sergey Bubka broke the world pole vault record 35 times, literally raising the bar a centimeter at a time and receiving a pay-out every time

he succeeded.

These days, he coaches Yelena Isinbayeva, who has 24 pole vault world records under her belt. She denies that her incremental advances are financially motivated, but there is no denying she has made a nice income from the \$50,000 she gets for each new record.

It is not easy to regulate one's performance in an event like the 100m sprint – and there is not a lot of time for thinking in 9.69 seconds – but the fractions of a second he let slip by easing up in the final 10m could end up being profitable for Usain Bolt.

(By Huang Daohen)

Comment on Bolt's performance

By Jin Zhu

He got an incredible start. I just went "Wow!" It was a much more amazing start than he got in the 100m, and his turn was absolutely fabulous. He is Superman 2!

– Michael Johnson, former 200m record holder

It was a spectacular performance, and he was definitely the best. He could have run faster if he had run straight through the line.

– Jamaica sprinter, Powell, Jamaican sprinter Usain is a talent, obviously.

However, he is a lazy guy otherwise. It would be great for him to train for the men's 400m.

– Wallace Spearmon, US sprinter

The 21-year-old Jamaican Bolt has proved who is "the fastest man in the world" with his performance.

– AP

Is it proper to behave in cocky bravado as a star athlete? Is it necessary for Bolt to show his self-glorification facing the spectators all over the world?

– Sean Maguire, columnist

Russia's vaulting queen sets 24th world record

By Venus Lee

Queen of the pole vault Yelena Isinbayeva has broken her own world record with her second consecutive Olympic pole vault gold medal at the Bird's Nest.

The 26-year-old Russian beat the record by a centimeter with a clearance of 5.05 meters, finishing ahead of Jennifer Stuczynski, the US competitor who cleared 4.80 meters. Russia's Svetlana Feofanova took bronze with a

vault of 4.75 meters.

In the finals, the minimum height she attempted was 4.70 meters. She also succeeded in challenging a height of 4.85 meters. After two unsuccessful attempts, she broke the Olympic record when she attempted 4.95m. Her last challenge was 5.05 meters – the jump that set a new world record.

Isinbayeva is both the world and Olympic record holder. She has been breaking the pole vault

world record throughout her athletic career – three times in this year alone and 24 times in total.

She won Olympic gold at the 2004 Athens Games with a then-world record of 4.91 meters, and became the first female pole vaulter to clear 5.00 meters three years ago at London's Golden Gala on July 22. She was a jackpot winner during last year's Golden League series of meets, sharing a US \$1 million prize with American 400m

runner Sanya Richards. Last year on July 11, she broke the women's world outdoor pole vault record with a 5.03-meter jump in Rome's Golden Gala, and on July 30, set another world record of 5.04 meters at Monaco's Golden Gala.

She said she hopes to compete until she is 35 years old and to surpass her icon Sergei Bubka, the Ukraine pole vault champion who set the world record 35 times. Her next goal is the 2012

London Olympic Games.

Isinbayeva is one of the most famous members of the Russian track and field team. She was called the Russian Cinderella by media, because she was born in a poor family in Volgograd and her parents are ordinary workers. She was derided and humiliated by schoolmates for her humble dress as a child, but found respect and admiration when she became the Russian National Youth Champion at 15.

Champions

even without gold

Love for son drives mother Olympian

By Han Manman

In the gymnastics world, 33-year-old Oxana Chusovitina is the only woman gymnast to appear at five Olympics for three nations. Her name has been known by many not only for vaulting over the Olympic age barrier but also for the story behind why she did it.

Giving back to Germany

After she nailed her vaults final last Sunday, Chusovitina could hardly contain her glee as she bounded into her coach's arms and waited for her score. She won a silver, the best medal Germany has ever taken in gymnastics.

It has been a long journey through three countries for Chusovitina, who now competes for Germany as a tribute to the nation that saved her son Alisher when he was diagnosed with leukemia in 2002.

"Did you see Mama's performance?" Chusovitina shouted to the camera during an interview by German media after the competition. "This medal," she said, "is for my son."

"I felt at home in Germany right away," she said. "I want to give something back to the country that's done so much for me."

Fight for her boy

Although many reporters asked about her son's present condition, Chusovitina refused to talk about it. According to German media, Chusovitina does not have to compete for Alisher's medical payments anymore. Her 9-year-old boy requires only quarterly blood analysis. The boy is attending school and competing in gymnastics, although his mother said she does not want him to get involved as it is too physically demanding.

In 2002, at age three, Alisher was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Chusovitina and her husband, former wrestler Bakhodir Kurpanov, were living in their native Uzbekistan. There were no medical facilities equipped to help their son, and the best place for treatment was in Cologne, Germany.

As athletes, Chusovitina and her husband had no health insurance. The Cologne hospital accepted Alisher as a patient, but demanded a promise of more than US \$100,000. At age 27 – old for a gymnast – Chusovitina had no choice but to perform for money. At that time, two of her German coaches began to ask the German gymnastic

community to donate money for her.

At that time, she participated in every competition in which she could compete. She sometimes took part in all four women's apparatus disciplines at tournaments to increase her chances of winning prize money.

"If I don't compete, then my son won't live," Chusovitina told Reuters.

So she kept training and competing. She remained good enough and strong enough that Germany invited her to join its Olympic team.

The road to glory

Chusovitina first marched under the banner of the former Soviet Union's Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992 to win an Olympic team gold. Since then, she represented Uzbekistan and participated in each Olympics up until Athens.

As Chusovitina no longer needs "huge" money for her son, many are curious whether she will continue her gymnastic career.

"I've been doing gymnastics for 25 years, but still love it. I love coming to training and the competition. I'll keep going as long as I can. My goal is to keep going until London in 2012, when I will be 37," Chusovitina said.

By Huang Daohen

"In the people's minds, you've already won a significant gold medal," a Chinese fan told swimmer Eric Shanteau, who competed even after being diagnosed with cancer, after he failed to qualify for the men's 200m breaststroke final.

Not every champion can be honored by flowers, applause and a stand on the podium. However, all who strive for and demonstrate the Olympic spirit are champions.



Chusovitina no longer needs to earn money for her son, as the 9-year-old boy has almost recovered.

CFP Photo



Natalie Du Toit earned respect, but not a medal on Wednesday.

CFP Photo

Du Toit fulfills her able-bodied dream

By Zhang Dongya

In Wednesday's Women's 10km Marathon Swimming competition, a South African swimmer who failed to gain a medal and or enter the top ten, still scored worldwide attention and applause. Natalie Du Toit is the only amputee to compete in both Olympics and Paralympics this year, and one of two disabled athletes in the Beijing Olympics.

For 24-year-old du Toit, the Olympics has long been a dream. At 16, she almost qualified for the 2000 Sydney Olympics. However, she lost her left leg below the knee in an accident the

following year. Injury could not cripple her Olympic dream, and six months after amputation she was back in the swimming pool, this time learning to swim with one leg.

She achieved great success the next few years, bridging the gap between able-bodied and disabled athletes. At the 2003 All-Africa Games, du Toit won the gold in the 800m freestyle competition against able-bodied swimmers. At the Afro-Asian Games the same year, she took silver in the 800m freestyle and bronze in the 400m freestyle, both against the able-bodied swimmers.

Du Toit does not wear a prosthetic

leg in races and that is why she is free to compete in the Beijing Games. "It is important to swim your own race and not someone else's," Du Toit said.

And with five golds and two silvers at the 2004 Athens Paralympic Games, she has done just that.

At this Olympics, du Toit carried the flag for South Africa at the opening ceremony. "[It was] an amazing honor!" she wrote on her Web site. She wore a prosthetic leg that day, and said "standing hurt a little, but it was all worth it. I had tears in my eyes when the flame was lit. I can't describe it, I'm so glad I was part of that," she wrote.

Swimmer with cancer wins unexpected 'gold'

Although he failed to qualify for the swimming competition final at the Beijing Olympics, cancer-stricken US swimmer Eric Shanteau won an unexpected "gold medal" from the Chinese.

The Shanghai-based Cancer Rehabilitation Club awarded the medal for his fight against the disease. The ceremony was watched by 200 cancer patients from Shanghai.

"In the people's minds, you've already won a significant gold medal. You've demonstrated the great Olympic spirit through your actions," Yuan Zhengping, head of the club, told Shanteau during Saturday evening's ceremony.

Shanteau, 24, was diagnosed with testicular cancer in June, weeks before last month's US trials. Regardless, he beat Brendan Hansen to land a trip to China and decided to postpone surgery until after the Games.

He placed tenth in Wednesday's heats and failed to qualify for the final match of the men's 200m breaststroke.

Shanteau excitedly said the medal meant more to him than any other he had won.

Cancer Club members started a campaign five years ago to save 2 yuan per day to pay their expenses to see the Olympics this year.

(By Huang Daohen)

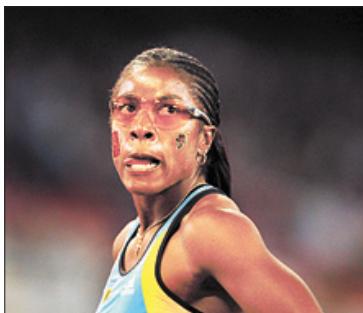
Angry stares free of malice

By Huang Daohen

Feeling dozens of angry eyes? Do not worry, they are just focusing on the competition and not meant to offend.



Gold medalist Kaori Icho of Japan competes for the gold against Alena Kartashova of Russia in the Women's Freestyle 63kg wrestling event at the China Agricultural University Gymnasium.



Debbie Ferguson-McKenzie of the Bahamas looks at the scoreboard after the Women's 100m semifinal at the National Stadium.



Hungary vs Australia in the Men's Water Polo event at the Olympic Sports Center Yingdong Natatorium.

Photo by Hu Jinxi



Marie-Pier Boudreau Gagnon and Isabelle Rampling of Canada compete in the Synchronized Swimming Duet Technical Routine event at the National Aquatics Center.



Timo Boll of Germany returns a shot in the men's ping pong team event against China at the Peking University Gymnasium.



Chris Hoy of Great Britain looks on during the track cycling event at the Laoshan Velodrome.

CFP Photos

Who's No. 1? Depends on how you count medals

Every day since the Games began, the Olympics medal chart has dominated the front page of the Chinese main state-run newspapers. The country is always ranked first.

On Wednesday, the chart showed that China has 43 gold medals compared to the 26 that went to the US, 16 to Great Britain, 11 to Australia and 11 to Germany.

It fails to tally the total number of medals. By that count – used by the US corporate-run media, including *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* – the US would be first with 79 medals. China is second with 76 medals, Russia third with 42 and Australia fourth with 35.

Don't look to the International Olympic Committee to resolve the debate.

According to the Olympic charter, medal tables lack any meaning. The IOC says that the games are a competition between athletes, not countries.

How to assess a country's performance against another's in the Olympics has been a source of confusion for over a century.

These days, most countries, like France, the UK and China, use gold medal counts for their rankings, while the US tallies the total numbers. Who is the No. 1? That will depend on how you count medals.

"To make a guess at the final number of gold medals has no practical significance, and it is not our goal to outrun anyone in terms of the total number of gold medals," Cui Dalin, deputy chief of Mission of the Chinese Sports Delegation, said.

(Agencies)

The hero is gone, but the show must go on

By Milo Lee

What does it feel like with millions of disappointed eyes staring at you? Chinese 110m hurdler Liu Xiang knows that feeling. There is no need to replay the news that rocked China on August 18. Pick up any newspaper dated the nineteenth you will see Liu's shocking exit on the front page in huge black letters.

A lot of mixed reactions have been expressed, rolling eyes and sympathetic tears have been seen, but most people who felt disappointed a day before have made their peace with it. The question is, with Liu out of the picture, how will the Chinese move on to enjoy the next game.

Putting total faith in one person has always been a tricky business. When he is bright and shining, all is fine; but when he does not deliver, the bottom drops out. After his grand success at the 2004 Athens Olympics, Liu was rewarded with fame and wealth and the whole nation regarded him as an idol and hoped he would defend his gold on home soil this summer.

But Liu failed before he even started. He limped out of the National Stadium with uncontrollable agony on his face, leaving thousands of spectators stunned and tearful. Some called him names, some said they understood the pressure he bore. But none could let it go.

Online discussions have heated up and news channels have repeatedly broadcast the scene of Liu's exit. People could not believe their beloved hero would just quit.

But that is reality when it

comes to sports, it hurts sometimes.

Liu is not the only one who has won a gold medal for China in track and field, an area in which the Chinese have always been deemed unsuccessful, but no other athlete has had so much hope placed on him.

Why does Liu Xiang have to be the one who bears the total burden? A good question for those who question Liu's integrity, claiming he has betrayed his people. It is not easy to fulfill a dream that so many have bet on, and also not fair, not to Liu and certainly not to the spirit of the Olympics.

This brings up the question of what is the purpose of holding an Olympics.

You probably all witnessed the opening ceremony where during the performances, a giant Chinese character *He* appeared on center stage. *He* means harmony, a spirit the nation has pursued for thousands of years.

The Olympics is a sporting event, Liu is an athlete, in this game some will win, some will lose, the important thing is, the Olympics is meant to be pure and divine, a chance for athletes to challenge themselves to a point none have reached before. If the Olympics is all about winning or losing, then why bother, a coin toss would be just as effective.

Dismissing the narrow-minded thinking, Liu's backing out may not be such a bad act. It should be a lesson to us all to remind us that there are more important things in life than winning.



Photo by Hu Jinxi

Mixed reactions to courtiers' Olympic results

With only two days of action still remaining, there have been mixed reactions in every country to what its athletes are achieving in Beijing.

US: China's the boss

The US team played the game of lowered expectations, which is precisely what many have to be wondering about now.

Lowered expectations are one thing. Lowered performance is another.

Sure, Phelps cleaned up in the pool and his teammates added to the swimming haul. That is almost expected, because Americans have dominated swimming at most Olympics since Johnny Weissmuller won five gold medals in the 1920s.

And US athletes are doing a fine job of finishing second and third. Already, 50 of them have spent a few Olympic moments in Beijing standing on podiums listening to the national anthems of other countries.

But the golds? Gone to China, nearly every one. Well, not quite, though it may seem that way to everyone not watching US television. While NBC has spent much of its prime-time glorifying all things Phelps, the host country has been busy collecting the most prized medals by the handful.

Take away the eight won by Phelps and things really look dismal.

"We were trying to lay expectations down that we've seen this coming for a couple of years and certainly didn't want anyone to be shocked," US Olympic official Steve Roush said, referring to the lopsided medal tally.

Russia: further back in the medal count

The Russians did win three gold medals Wednesday – in the women's marathon swim, synchronized swimming and men's free-style wrestling – but the Russians are going to need performances of

Soviet proportions to come anywhere close to their Athens total of 27 golds.

With 14 gold medals, the Russian machine was in fourth place on Wednesday behind China, the US and Britain.

This will not be taken lightly back home. And Olympic gold medals have long been considered part of the Russian patrimony, like Stoli, Kalashnikov rifles or Faberge eggs.

Russian gymnasts are facing their worst Olympic showing, with errors and rifts in the team pointing to a crisis in the sport's former superpower.

Dominant for four decades as the Soviet Union, Russians used to bring home sacks of Olympic medals, but are now scrabbling around for the scraps and have just two Beijing bronzes in gymnastics.

Brits pass gold landmark

With five days of action still remaining, this is already the

second best display ever produced by a team of British Olympians.

British Olympic Association chef de mission Simon Clegg said, "It has been another outstanding day and a great gold medal on the track by Christine who ran a fantastic race."

Team GB's 16 golds is their greatest haul since claiming a British all-time record of 56 at the 1908 Olympics in London.

That tally came amid a collection of 146 medals in total, but will almost certainly never be surpassed, given there were only British entries in some events including polo and rackets.

A brilliant Tuesday for Team GB began with Goodison clinching Britain's third sailing gold of the Olympics.

"It just feels unbelievable. It's going to take a while to sink in but wow," the 30-year-old Goodison, from Sheffield, said.

His triumph was followed up at the Laoshan cycling velodrome, where Pendleton claimed Britain's

seventh cycling title of the Games before Hoy added an eighth.

"It doesn't feel real yet. I'm so glad I'm part of it," Pendleton, of Hitchin, Hertfordshire, said.

Australian girl's power Olympic success

Now it is the men rising to applaud the women, especially in the Australian team.

Once again, Australian women have outperformed their male colleagues at these Games.

They make up just under 46 percent of this team (199 to 235), and have so far won 56 per cent of the medals, including eight of the 11 gold medals to date.

It has been very much the case in recent Olympics, and there is no sign of its slowing down.

The courage of cyclist Anna Meares in winning a silver medal seven months after breaking her neck and young Sally McLellan's exuberance at her 100m hurdles silver medal exemplify their spirit.

(Agencies)

For China, the Olympics pays off big time

(Star Tribune) – The country's investment has brought home gold and inspired a new age for fans and athletes

A massive investment in developing athletes, particularly in events not common in China.

Millions have become couch potatoes glued to Olympic TV coverage.

Much has been made of how the Olympics will change the country. As the Beijing Games wind down, they promise to have a particular impact on Chinese sport.

A boost to sports funding

"More and more young people are participating in Olympic sports," Susan Brownell, an expert on sports in China who is doing research at Beijing Sport University, said. "And we're seeing people crowd around big-screen TVs to watch the events. They're more interested in sports than in cultural programs."

"This is the culmination of a 100-year dream to have an Olympic Games in China. The event has had a feel-good effect on Chinese society, which they probably will elect to keep up."

The government investment in the Games goes beyond the US \$40 billion spent on infrastructure and the \$2.1 billion operating budget. The government poured millions into ensuring its athletes would

represent the nation successfully in unfamiliar sports, as well as those ingrained in the culture.

Only a few years ago, bikinis were thought to be immodest and were rarely worn in China. This week, both of the country's women's beach volleyball teams – whose uniforms are skimpy two-piece suits – made it to the Olympic semifinals.

US officials take notice

The US, which has won the most gold and most overall medals at every Games since 1996, has taken notice. Officials of the US Olympic Committee have cast an eye toward China for the past four years as they help US athletes keep pace.

"With the sports infrastructure, the facilities, the coaches who are being developed here and the young people who will be inspired by these Games, we think this will be a formidable system that we'll have to contend with for a very, very long time," Jim Scherr, head of the US Olympic Committee, said. "This system is here to stay."

According to CSM Media Research, 356 million Chinese tuned in to watch a women's early-round volleyball game between China and Cuba.

Their zeal and China's intense national pride, have actually offset the home-country advantage to some degree.

Some gold-medal hopefuls have felt so much responsibility to win for their country that they have had unexpected meltdowns. Officials and coaches of Chinese teams have urged fans to support athletes who lose and sports psychologists have been employed to help Chinese competitors withstand the enormous pressure to win.

Fighting for glory

The growing middle class also has more money to spend on entertainment and the Olympics could fuel an expanding market for spectator sports. The NBA gear already is sold in 30,000 retail locations – where Kevin Garnett's jersey was the No. 2 bestseller last year, behind Kobe Bryant's – and ticket scalping has kept police busy in Beijing.

The depth of the country's feeling for its athletic stars was poignantly proven Monday when fans wept openly as star hurdler Liu Xiang pulled up with an injury in his first race. Their complex relationship with their athletes has some, such as judo gold medalist Tong Wen, viewing these Games as a matter of extreme national importance. "I am not only representing myself," she said, "I have a responsibility to fight for my country. I was fighting for China's glory."

Government limits use of Olympians' names online

(Sydney Morning Herald) – China has banned the use of its Olympic gold medalists' names as Internet addresses by anyone but the athletes themselves.

The move announced Tuesday came after companies registered the names of winning Chinese athletes at the 2004 Athens Olympics as Web addresses, prompting an outcry from sports fans.

"The move will better protect the interests of the Olympic gold medalists," said an official of the government's China Internet Network Information Center, quoted by the state Xinhua News Agency.

People who registered those names before the Games can keep them but "were advised to give it to the medalist 'as a gift,'" Xinhua cited CNNIC as saying.

Beijing inspires Games names

(The Daily Yomiuri) – Olympic fever has reached such a pitch in China that many parents have felt inspired to name their newly born infants after the Olympic Games or one of the Olympic mascots.

In Chinese, the Games is referred to either as "aoyun" or "aoyun hui," meaning Olympics or Olympic Games.

At Peking University First Hospital, 30-year-old Zou Xiehua and his wife, Liu Shasha, 25, both university teachers, were holding their baby boy lovingly in their arms and whispering softly in his ear, "Aoao, look here!"

Little Aoao was born on August 8, the day of the opening ceremony. The couple used the first Chinese character of ao yun for their baby's name.

He had been due in mid-September, but Liu's water burst on August 8 and he was delivered that day by Caesarean section. As his birth was quite unexpected, Aoao's parents had given little thought to his name. However, being born during the opening ceremony made his naming an easy and natural decision.

A current joke in China goes, "The day will come when the whole town will respond when you call out the name 'Aoyun'!"

Closing ceremony unrehearsed

(UPI) – The closing ceremony for the Beijing Summer Games will be unrehearsed. It seems the men's marathon will end at the National Stadium (Bird's Nest) about noon where the closing ceremony is being held, leaving only eight hours for the organizers to prepare for it.

Also time has been allotted to London 2012 organizers to rehearse an eight-minute handover ceremony.

Zhang Yimou, chief director of the opening and closing ceremonies, said earlier this month that the climax of the show would come as the Olympic flame is extinguished. He said, "We are dedicated to creating a happy atmosphere at the closing ceremony. The message is to say goodbye, and to promise to meet again in four years."

The *China Daily* reported Tuesday the closing ceremony includes a performance by world-famous Spanish tenor Placido Domingo in a duet with soprano star Song Zuying.

The *British Daily Mirror* reports that football star David Beckham will appear during the handover ceremony. Beckham is expected to arrive on top of one of London's famous red double-decker buses before he kicks a football into the crowd. Hundreds of dancers from Britain will then perform ballet and break-dancing routines as the countdown to 2012 begins.

Nigerians boost banner



By Venus Lee

"Our gymnastics is not good, our ping pong is not good, but our soccer is not bad."

On August 19, several Nigerian soccer fans waved a novel Chinese

banner during the semifinals of the men's soccer game at the Beijing Olympics. That night the Nigerian football team battled the Belgian team and swept away their rivals with a 4:1 score and successfully

entered the finals.

Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

(The origin of the above photo is uncertain, but its content reflects the story.)

Chinatown gets a lift from the games

(San Francisco Chronicle) – Customers queued up outside Hilda Lin's sports shop in San Francisco's Chinatown all day Tuesday, eager for copies of the *Sing Tao Daily*.

"China Moves Past the Americans with 39 Olympic Gold Medals," the headline screamed.

It was undeniable. There it was, in big, red block characters, under the portraits of women's trampoline gold medalist Wenn He and men's table tennis champions Lin Ma, Hao Wang and Liqin Wang.

"China has been trying to (host the Olympics) for years," said Lin as she fetched another stack of newspapers from behind

the counter. "This is more than great!"

By mid-afternoon Tuesday, the Chinese gold medal count had surged to 43 – and China was just three shy of the US in total medals.

Such performances have Chinatown puffing with pride, from shopkeepers to bar patrons to older men who gather for card games in Portsmouth Square. Not only has China put on one of the most breathtaking opening ceremonies of any Olympiad, it has organized the event with immaculate efficiency and proved its athletic prowess.

San Francisco, which has 744,041 residents, has a large Chinese and Chinese

American population – 152,042 in total, according to 2006 US census data.

At Li Po Cocktails on Grant Avenue, crowds have formed after work each day since the Games began with customers lining up several rows deep to cheer the Americans and the Chinese on the big screen, said the bartender, who declined to give her name.

"You'd be surprised at how many tourists come in here and still think Chinese wear long dresses and lead their cows down the sides of the road," she said. "This is giving China a chance to show everybody how advanced it is."



No gold medal for good manners

By Wang Yu

On August 16, Li Na, the tennis star who is the country's hope for a silver or gold medal in the singles event, shouted "Shut up!" in English at the noisy audience when she was competing against Russia's Dinara Safina. Ultimately, Li lost the game 6-7, 5-7 to the Russian.

The incident was published on most mainstream Web sites with a short video showing Li shouting the angry words. Though Li Na admitted she was frustrated over losing control of her game, netizens still knocked her for not accepting the boisterous support from her fans.

Cheering often can be heard at inappropriate times when the players are in the middle of a rally or someone was chatting on their mobile phone during play. However, Chinese fans' infamous lack of sports etiquette has been a problem from time to time.

Tennis, for example, requires the audience to be quiet when players are in the rally phase, especially when they are going for a key point. The spectators should also remain in their seats until a ball is declared dead. The tennis crowds are so close to the court that slight movement or voice can disturb the players.

To date, at the Beijing Olympics, Chinese teams have had host court advantage at every game and the audience always cheers for the national

teams enthusiastically. On August 14 when the men's volleyball team played Japan at the Capital Gymnasium, the fans made a lot of noise when Japan served and as the game went on to the finals, that noise level escalated until the host team won.

The audience also sang "The Yellow River Cantata" in chorus, composed by Xian Xinghai in 1939 when the country was at war against the Japanese.

Some expressed their feelings about the war-like atmosphere of the match on the Internet and said that no doubt the audience should help to create a host court advantage, but making such loud noise to intimidate the rival team was not respectful and the music was a slap in the face.

Others said the audience should learn some sports etiquette before they attend competitions and should not force their nationalistic views at the scene.

The opposition claims that this sort of thing always happens at the NBA and the England's Super League games as fans usually hiss and shout at the rival team. This should not be viewed as ignorance of sports etiquette.

There is no right or wrong about the spectators' behavior. But the Chinese people see the Olympics as a symbol of the country's ascension to the international stage.



Li Na, finally the bronze medalist

Comment

It is understandable, but it would have been better if she had chosen another approach. At least now she has a better role model in the form of gymnast Chen Yibin, who calmed down an equally rowdy group of fans with a very polite hand gesture.

— Hong Gang, posted on the Web site of the New York Times

I went to the Olympic Tennis Park to watch Roger Federer's double game and Ralph Nadal's semi-final. To be frank, it was a little bit noisy around the court. It may partly have been because some fans were locked out of the tennis park after the door was closed and they were protesting.

Anyway, as tennis is not as popular in China as in Western countries, it is natural that fans may be unaware of the rules when watching the matches. As time goes by, it will get better.

— Anna Lee, a tennis fan

The phenomenon shows the lack of sports culture in China. Li Na's incident is representative and our ring champion Chen Yibing also made a gesture to tell the audience to lower their voice as there was still an athlete waiting to finish.

Different sports require different etiquette from spectators because they are not only game watchers but also participants. Some certain rules should be obeyed and it takes time to learn them.

Winning gold medals is not top priority. How we make sport a valuable part of our lives must be considered important as well. So that, we will not see the scene of the judges repeating the only sentence they can speak, "An Jing" on the tennis court over and over again.

— Wei Qun, from Chinanews.com.cn

In my opinion, Li Na did nothing wrong. It's only too common for players to let out emotions on a tennis court, and "Shut up" is as normal as any other expression used on such occasions.

I understand what the Beijing Games means to our country. It's all about the pride we feel as we grow into a stronger nation and integrate with the rest of the world. And I can't identify more than I already do with such pride, but we shouldn't let a narrow sense of patriotism get in the way of a bigger cause.

— Jessie Jiang, from the New York Times, Olympic blog



The tennis crowds are so close to the court that slight movement or chatter can disturb the players. CFP Photos

The Olympics is everywhere

By He Jianwei

As the athletes compete, other people show their enthusiasm towards the Games. Maybe they cannot attend the Games, but they make videos expressing how much they love the Games.

Twenty-seven days ago, a student posted a video titled "The Olympics Is Everywhere" on Youku, a video sharing Web site, expressing the relationship between sports and life.

In the 8-minute video, the creator tells the story of a student picking up a bottle of purified water from the reception area to take to the dormitory. On his way, the student films six sports events, including fencing, hurdles, basketball, weight-lifting, football and baseball.

The video was made by students at Nanhui Campus of South China Normal University. "We tried to express the idea that sports originate from our lives. This was a way for us to cheer on all the athletes in the Olympic Games," He Yingjin, 22, director and writer, said.

Inspired by campus life

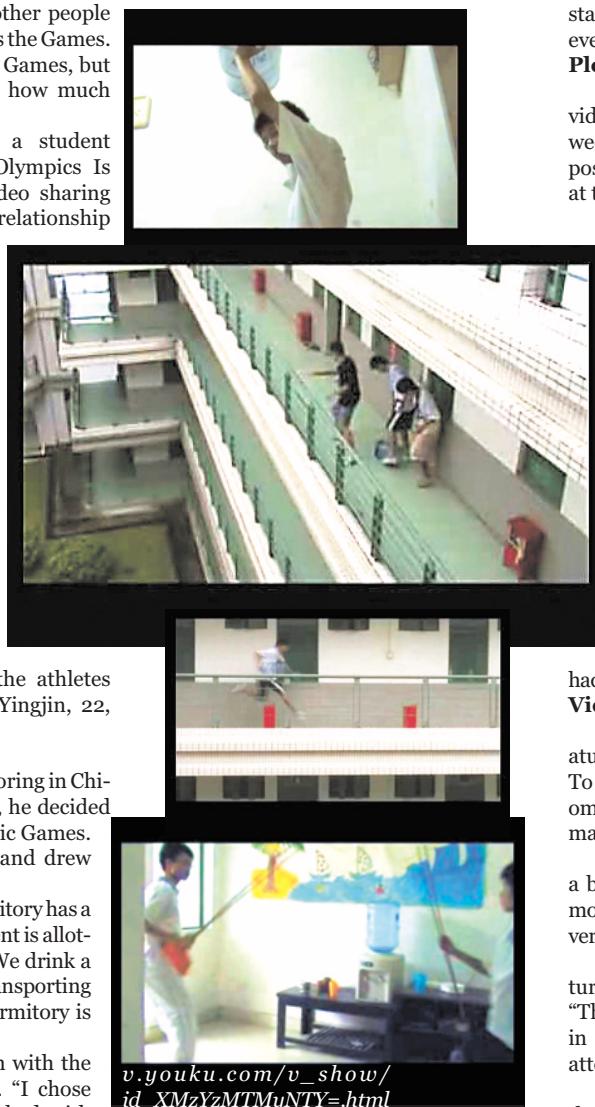
The director is a junior majoring in Chinese literature. This semester, he decided to make a video for the Olympic Games. He wrote the script in April and drew inspiration from campus life.

In his university, each dormitory has a water dispenser and each student is allotted 20 barrels per semester. "We drink a barrel of water every day, so transporting new barrels of water to the dormitory is part of our routine," he said.

He tied the video theme in with the carrying of the water bottles. "I chose some sports events that matched with the action of carrying a barrel of water," he said.

Two students wanted a drink, but the barrel was empty. So they tried to decide who would carry the new barrel of water and connected the act with fencing, substituting brooms as swords.

When the student who lost walked out



segments might help the audience understand more easily what kind of sports event I had chosen," he said.

Plot twists

He and his crew started to film the video in May and finished shooting in one week. Because of final exams in June, they postponed editing until July and finished at the end of the month.

In his original script, the final event would have been archery, but he settled on baseball. Because "it is easier for us to imitate the actions of baseball. One student used a book as a baseball bat and the other student threw his room key as a baseball to the student who carried the barrel of water," he said.

The scene of playing basketball was not easily understood. When a student threw a card into a coin box, positioned on a desk that was the key act to establish what sport they were imitating.

"At first, I wanted to put the box on the wall, but the accommodation officer said that we couldn't do that. So we had to put the box on the desk," he said.

Video fan club

Although He majors in Chinese literature, he is interested in making videos. To capture their campus life as the sophomores, He and his classmates started to make a short film last year.

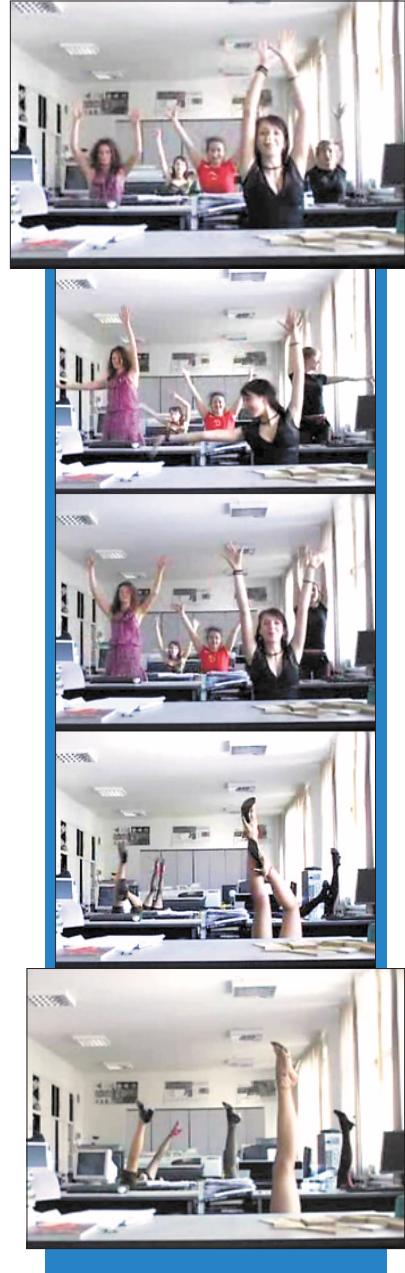
The movie described a student who was a bad boy and changed his ways to lead a more positive life. It was shown in the university and encouraged many students.

In September, 2007, He initiated a culture club for film fans in his university. "This is the first club about film creation in our university and over 50 students attended," he said.

After the establishment of the club, they organized varied activities, such as lectures by experts or professors in the fields of movie and television.

"We decided to make one documentary every year. We will record campus memories through our cameras, such as the military training at the beginning of campus life and the graduation ceremony at the end of that life," he said.

Link
Synchronized swimming in the office
v.youku.com/v_show/id_XMzkyMTQ3OTI=.html
 Five office ladies in Russia performed synchronized swimming in their office. They used their desks as the surface of the water.



BEIJING TODAY

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Hear all parties
Development is of overriding importance
Seek common ground while reserving differences

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The same warmth and cold throughout the globe

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Maldives children marvel at China in a family affair

By Zhang Dongya

To many Chinese children, Maldives is the dream place of McDull, a well-known cartoon character from a Hong Kong movie, who can do everything including swallowing bitter medicine in order to travel to the beautiful island resort promised by his mother.

The pupils of Tuanjiehu Primary School received many opportunities to know the island kingdom as they were chosen to be partner with Maldives for the Olympics "Heart-2-Heart" partnership program. After the Tuanjiehu Primary School's tour in May, as many as 21 teachers and students from Jamaluddin School in Maldives visited Beijing last week.

As a tradition of their program, 16 students from Maldives lived with 16 Chinese families during the four-day tour in China to learn more about the folk customs.

Uraiba, 13, in grade seven, the top grade of the primary school in Maldives, partnered with Chinese student Peng Yuhan, the

only student to participate in the trip to Maldives in May.

"China has a very different culture. The family is very nice and caring," Uraiba said.

Since Peng had visited Uraiba's school and country, she was also her partner in Maldives and since they were former friends they had much to talk about when they reunited.

Besides, Peng's father can speak English and he played an active role in the children's communication. "After Yuhan returned to Beijing from Maldives, she kept in touch with her partner by email. Since the children are still not proficient at written English, the contact was actually between their fathers. And, it also involved the two families, I think," Peng's father said.

Compared to their family of three, the 11-year-old Li Haocong greeted his little guest with a big family. Li's parents and grandparents, as well as his uncle, who can speak English, were together with his foreign partner Falak during the four days.

The grandma doted much on



Uraiba (left) from Maldives partners with Chinese student Peng Yuhan. Photo provided by Tuanjiehu Primary School

little Falak. Everyday, she got up early to make breakfast for the children. "Falak was not used to Chinese food at first. He ate little the first two days and didn't go to the toilet. I was very worried until the third day when he tried the hamburger with beef in it, he ate a lot so I felt at ease," the grandma said.

The children from Maldives were organized to visit the Great Wall on their arrival day, watch

a match with athletes from their country at the Bird's Nest and see the acrobatics show at the Chaoyang Theater.

"The trip to the Great Wall was so long and I felt so tired," Falak said. Commenting on the Bird's Nest, Falak said, "It is big, but very crowded. People around me were shouting, but I was busy taking pictures." For Falak, the place he was anxious to see was the Forbidden City.

Tradition triumphs to score points with tourists

By Annie Wei

While Olympic short-term rental operations around the venues complained of poor business and were forced to lower fees, a courtyard in the center of Beijing has attracted a full house of guests. Cart-riders from Houhai Lake bring tourists in to visit from time to time. So do reporters from local media who drop by for stories of people visiting the hutong.

The courtyard house, owned by Li Xiushui, 80, and occupied by she, her children and grandchildren, is offering Olympic home-stay. Situated in one of the hutong in Jiu Gulou Dajie, a booming, prosperous locale and tourist hangout, it is close to other popular spots like the Drum and Bell Tower, Houhai Lake and Nanluoguxiang.

It is not a big courtyard, and not as well decorated as those bought and renovated by expats, but it is very local, with green vines in the garden, a stone table and some chairs, a bird's nest and two old-style carts. Li said she used to go to school in such cart as a child.

The woman is very proud of her house. Before the Games, many people in the area came to ask her to rent the spare rooms out. Li refused because she did not want people to bother her quiet life.

However, Li said she decided to join in the Olympic homestay program and rent the rooms to foreign guests.

"I am 80 and it will be the only Olympic Games I ever experience in my own country," Li said.

In the courtyard, a small room rents for 400 yuan. All the prices are set by the Beijing Tourism Bureau.

But Li is not looking to make a profit. She said that she only accepts tourists recommended by the Beijing Tourism Bureau, and not people recommended by friends.

She is happy with her current guests because they are polite, speak quietly and only drink water in the courtyard.

"If they want to drink alcohol or meet friends, they head to bars," Li said.

Trevor Willis, 25, and Paul Harris, 23, from New Zealand currently live in Li's courtyard.

Before they came, they registered online to look for a place to stay.

"We will not drink here," Willis said. "If we want to have a drink, we just go to the pubs," he said, pointing in the direction of Houhai.

They said the homestay is a very cool way to stay in a hutong courtyard and experience local lifestyles.

Li Jian, owner of the Nanluoguxiang Folk Culture Hotel and Beiluoguxiang CEO Culture Hotel, said the hotel business did very well during the Games.

"Not all hotels in Beijing have a full compliment of guests," Li said, "Our hotels have interesting Chinese style and elements. That's why business is so good."

Superheroes at the Olympics

By Zheng Lu

Outside the Bird's Nest after a morning of various competitions, a very recognizable star among the spectators was no less popular than the sports stars themselves parading around the competition area. Fans from all age groups lined up to take photos with American David Cerio in his Superman costume.

Cerio told *Beijing Today* later that he planned to wear the costume for only two hours, but ended up in the outfit for six hours because people unceasingly kept snapping pictures with him.

Back-busting as it must have been, Cerio referred to the scenario as "the

best day and highlight of my trip to China," he said, "The opportunity I had to meet so many people from all over China and all over the world made it so worthwhile!"

He was not alone among superhero attendees. There were six other caped crusaders including Batman, Iron Man, Captain America, Mr. Incredible and Thor who had planned their appearances for a long time. It was when this group attended the Winter Games in Turin, Italy in 2006 that they discussed special things they could do for the Beijing Olympics, "Something different that would get people's attention in a positive way," he said.

They first wore the attire to the

beach volleyball event on the second day they arrived in Beijing and were not sure whether they would be allowed to pass through the security check. To their surprise, the staff opened up a walkway just for them to enter. When they came into view, spectators cheered and clapped for them.

When asked about their motivation for the stunt, Cerio said they just wanted to offer "a good laugh and to entertain people" instead of simply supporting the US team. "We had no idea whether the US teams would be competing at the events for which we had tickets," he said. "The whole idea of the costume party was more about the people, regardless of nationality."



The cosplayers took photo with volunteers at a venue. David Cerio (Third from Right in the back)

Photo provided by David Cerio

Public transportation cards for two cities are more expensive

By Annie Wei

No other Chinese city gives as many government subsidies to encourage citizens to use public transportation.

With increasing price hikes for daily basic necessities, more people are adopting public transportation instead of driving or taking a cab.

Local public transportation cards can save users up to 60 percent on buses or can be swiped at subway stations and in cabs to avoid the inconvenience of looking for charges or getting worn notes.

As there are many people making the Tianjin-Beijing commute, the cities public transportation systems decided to develop a shared transportation card which can be used in both cities.

Such cards are available in many spots, like subway stations, big bus stations and some post offices.

But there is difference between the dual-city cards and the single-city ones:

- To get a public transportation card, the one used for both cities requires a 60-yuan deposit while only 40 yuan for a Beijing city card. Twenty yuan is the cost of the card and another 20 for the minimum charge.

- In Beijing, a cardholder gets a 60-percent discount on buses but only 5 percent in Tianjin and 10 percent on the subway.

- If you get your card in Beijing, you cannot re-charge it in Tianjin because the billing systems in the two cities have not merged.

Daily currency exchange has a limit

By Annie Wei

When one is leaving China, he or she has to plan how much yuan to keep for the last few days because the government has strict rules on foreign currencies and only banks provide exchange service.

One agency Travelex has a counter at the airport to handle the currency-exchange issues.

However, there are still daily limits. Non-Chinese nationals will be able to sell up to US \$500 worth of yuan per day through the new exchange centers, rising to US \$1,000 once they pass beyond customs checkpoints at airports, ports and other border controls, the regulator's Web site statement said.

Chinese nationals will be able to buy or sell currency as part of their annual quota of US \$50,000.

Travelex is the only such in Beijing licensed for China's widening currency-exchanging.

The State Administration of Foreign Exchange said it would expand foreign exchange services for individuals to meet rising demand for buying and selling currency. It said that licensed non-financial institutions can offer foreign-currency services to individuals.

More convenient currency-exchange spots are expected soon in Shanghai and Beijing.



An organic exhibit at Beijing attracts lots of local customers.

CFP Photo

Organic available everywhere

By Annie Wei

For green-minded visitors, *Beijing Today* selects 22 organic restaurants and home delivery services.



Corns from Organic Farm

Photo by Zou Sha

Restaurants

Crab Island restaurant

Where: 40 Xufuli, Caishikou Nan Dajie, Xuanwu

Tel: 8354 5232

The Orchard

They grow their greens and herbs in their own greenhouses

Where: Hegezhuang, Cuigezhuang xiang, Chaoyang

Tel: 6433 6270

Korean restaurant

Oh Jook Hun

It serves imperial Korean cuisine, featuring raw fish, organic farm vegetables and kimchi dishes.

Where: Westside of 21st Century Hotel, Yansha embassy district Haoyuan street, Chaoyang

Tel: 5867 0230

Vanilla Garden

Organic vegetarian restaurant, coffee and tea house and store for dry organic products.

Where: 23 Caoyuan Hutong, Dongzhimen Nei Bei Xiaojie, Dongcheng

Tel: 6405 2082

Baihe vegetarian restaurant

Yiheyuan branch

It serves vegetarian cuisine and teaches Chinese classics to children.

Where: 50 Kunminghu Lu, Yiheyuan, Haidian

Tel: 6287 8726

Jimenqiao Branch

Where: South side of the Jimen Hotel, Jimenqiao, North third ring road, Haidian

Tel: 6202 5284

Pure lotus

It is run by monks from Wutaihan, a famous Buddhism mountain.

Where: In the courtyard of China Wenlian, northeastern corner of Changhongqiao, Chaoyang

Tel: 6592 3627/8703 6669

Where: Holiday inn Lido, third floor, Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang

Tel: 8703 6668/ 6437 6288

Paradiso Restaurant

It services North African fare using organic produce and meat from Xinjiang Province

Where: 6 Sanlitun Zhongjie, Chaoyang

Tel: 6532 5878



Organic plants

Home delivery and supermarkets

Agrilandia Farm

It has two restaurants and a deli. The farm sells organic fruits with fruit trees imported from Italy and vegetables grown on-site.

Where: Nanguoyuan, Shilibao Cun, Nannanxin Zhen, Shunyi

Tel: 6947 3133

Beijing Organic and Beyond

A home delivery service providing seasonal fruits and vegetables, organic UHT imported milk, a variety of grains, rice, beans, and organic, free-range eggs.

Web site: organicandbeyond.cn/EN/

BHG Market Plaza

Imported and organic food from China including certified organic fresh meat

Where: Shin Kong Place B1, 87 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang

Tel: 6530 7062

City Shop

A Shanghai chain store in Beijing that imports most of their food items from Shanghai and has some unique finds.

Where: B1, the grand summit, 19 Dongfang Lu, Chaoyang

Tel: 5832 3488

De Run Wu Organic & Natural Store

Where: Rm 813, 3 Shunhuang Lu, Danshui Xiaozhen (400 meters west from Jingshun Lu, follow the signs to Danshui Town), Chaoyang District, Shunyi

Open: Monday - Friday 9:30 am - 5:30 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10:30 am - 6:30 pm

Tel: 8459 0809

Home Delivery: Order by emailing jiyunliang@vip.163.com. Delivery days are Monday and Thursday

Wellfull Organic Food Stores

The small shop offers seeds, nuts, organic milk, olive oil and jam. It has several locations.

Where: Xinjiyuan Jiayuan 2-5-102, Wanliu Zhong Jie, Haidian

Tel: 8626 2295

Where: 200 meters west of Siliqing Qiao near north gate of Shengya Building

Tel: 8846 5225

Where: B3, 37 Zengguang Lu, Haifuyuan, Haidian

Tel: 8858 6321

Green Dot Dot

An organic store from Hong Kong available in a few places in Beijing.

Where: 48 Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, Oriental Kenzo Mall B1 -12

Tel: 8454 9825

Green Yard Organic Milk and Yogurt

Organic milk and yoghurt delivered cold to your door. Goat's milk is also available in small UHT boxes.

Email: greenyard.organic@gmail.com or hotline: 800-810-9903

Tel: 6506 5855 or 6506 0955.

Healthy Supermarket

Specializes in organic and Green food products from Heilongjiang.

Where: 15 Nanhu Lu, Wangjing area, Chaoyang

Tel: 8477 1644

Joyful Organic

It sells Sanmark organic, certified kosher and cold-pressed specialty oils.

Tel: 6229 6800 ext 616

Email: nancy@sanmarkltd.com

Lohao City

Where: 52 Jingshun Lu, Shunyi.

Additional stores: Lucky Street and Shuangjing Outlets 76 Nan Er Lu, Baizhuan

Tel: 5867 0265. benliu@lohaocity.com for orders from that store.

Tel: Cindy at 8459 4332 or 8459 4647

Organic Farm

Order on Monday for a Tuesday delivery, order Thursday for a Friday delivery. One can specify morning or afternoon delivery times. Organic farm carries the single widest selection of produce.

Email: organicfarm@126.com and bjorganic@263.net

Tel: 8408 5030, 8408 5026

"Organic Weekend" Home Delivery in Dalian, Beijing and Shanghai

Every Monday, the company sends out a new order list and customers can order via email. The orders will then be delivered on Friday.

Email: Wang Difei at cio@swift.net.cn

Wal-Mart Supercenter in Beijing

Offer organic certified vegetables delivered from Liuminying and Organic Farm brand, also a selection of certified organic dry food, such as beans and rice, is available

Where: B1, Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang

Tel: 5960 3566, 5960 3516

(Thanks to Liora Pearlman from Beijing Organic Consumers' Association)

Explosive year

A retrospective of the gun

For many who will arrive over the next few months, the Olympics is not their only destination. They are curious to explore and to collect memorabilia. From this week through the end of September, *Beijing Today* will present a series of guides. The guides include current popular sites for food and shopping, and will lead visitors to sites of interest too new for the guidebooks. We hope you can feel the pulse of the city and dig deep into Beijing's daily life.



Head On, 2006

Folk Activities

Hands-on embroidered purses

Learn to make a traditional purse with embroidered patterns

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 24, 2-5 pm

Cost: 200 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(registration is important)

Hands-on fabric accumulated art

Accumulated fabric art is a traditional form of fabric art dating back to the Tang Dynasty. Emperor Qianlong in the Qing Dynasty once enjoyed the art and created pieces for his mothers.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 9 am - noon, August 29

Cost: 150 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(registration is important)

Tea tasting

Treat your palate to the flavor of the orient by discovering six unique teas from the far reaches of China.

Where: The Hutong, 1 Zhongxiang Hutong Jiudaowan, Dongcheng

When: August 23, 2-4 pm

Admission: 180 yuan

Tel: 8915 3613

Dumpling making

Learn how to make dumplings with healthy local ingredients.

Where: The Hutong, 1 Zhongxiang Hutong Jiudaowan, Dongcheng

When: August 27, 2-4 pm

Admission: 180 yuan

Tel: 8915 3613

Ink and wash painting class

Chinese painting is one of the oldest continuous artistic traditions in the world. Ink and wash painting is an East Asian type of brush painting. It is also known as



China Visual Arts Center



Yugong Yishan

wash painting.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 25, 7:30-9:30 pm

Cost: 120 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(registration is important)

Calligraphy

The calligraphy course is set up for non mandarin-speaking students and conducted in English, covering everything from meaning and evolution of the characters and culture to history and music of the period.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 26, 10-11:30 am

Cost: 120 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(registration is important)

Outdoors

Royal Canal boat tour to the Summer Palace

This boat and walking tour provides an opportunity to see a bit of everything of the capital, both historical sites and the daily life of Beijingers. Cruise along the imperial canal in a traditional-style motorized canopy boat past the Beijing Zoo, Beijing Aquarium and the Purple Bamboo Garden.

Where: meet in the square of the Beijing Exhibition Center, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: August 23 and 27, 9 am -3:30 pm

Cost: 380 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(reservations are essential)

Huitengxile Inner Mongolia Grassland

Huitengxile is less spoiled and attracts tourists. Mushroom-like yurts, bright sky, fresh air, rolling grass and the flocks and herds moving like white clouds across the remote grassland will give you a quiet and relaxing feeling you will never forget.

When: Fly to Hohhot on August 23 and fly back on August 24

Cost: 2,850 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(reservations are essential)

Ancient City Xi'an

This southwestern city of China is the home to some of the most spectacular sights in China, including the eighth wonder of the world, the Terracotta Warriors, a spectacular well-preserved city wall and a Muslim quarter.

When: Take the overnight train to Xi'an on August 22 and fly back on August 24

Cost: 3,200 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

(reservations are essential)

Hunlun Buir Grasslands

Hulun Buir Grasslands are known locally as the "most unsullied prairie", because of the lack of pollution and the uninterrupted green that, in summer, stretches in all directions.

When: Fly to Manzhouli on August 29 and fly back on August 31

Cost: 5,800 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041

By He Jianwei

A giant wooden boat pierced with 3,000 arrows hangs in the hall of the National Art Museum of China (NAMOC). The exhibition, *Cai Guo-Qiang: I Want To Believe* is the artist's largest presentation of his works in China showing his career spanning 20 years.

The exhibition includes 40 works covering the 1980s to the present, selected from museums and private collections in Asia, Europe and the US. Organized chronologically and thematically, the exhibition charts the artist's creation of a distinctive visual and conceptual language, examining Cai's significant contributions to contemporary international art practice as well as his influence as a creator of socially-provocative projects for large audiences.

The works in this exhibition are categorized into four different media, namely gunpowder drawings made from igniting gunpowder laid on paper, explosion events represented through documentary videos and drawings, large-scale installations and social projects.

For the exhibition at NAMOC, Cai has especially created a new gunpowder drawing - measuring 33 meters in length - depicting his impressions of the Beijing Olympic Games. Cai exploded 29 giant feet on paper symbolizing the 29th Olympic Games coming to China.

The artist has designed an autobiography timeline comprising documentary materials and objects illustrating key events of his life and work.

The exhibition, which Newsweek hailed as "explo-

sive and gorgeous," was the best-attended visual arts show in New York's Guggenheim Museum's history and was the first solo exhibition of a Chinese artist at the museum.

Born in Quanzhou, Fujian Province in 1957, Cai studied stage design at the Shanghai Drama Institute. After moving to Japan in 1986, he tapped into a rich vein

of international 20th-century art and critical thought. While living there, he mastered the use of gunpowder to create his signature gunpowder drawings and the related outdoor explosion events. These practices integrate science and art in a process of creative destruction and reflect Cai's philosophy that conflict and transformation are interdependent conditions of life and hence art.

Cai has lived in New York since 1995. His recent work has expanded to include large-scale installations, allegorical and sculptural pieces that recuperate signs and symbols of Chinese culture and expose the dialectics of local history and globalization.

Subverting tropes such as east versus west, traditional versus contemporary and center versus periphery, Cai offers a new cultural paradigm for the art of a global age and expands the meaning of the phrase "I want to believe."

Cai Guo-Qiang: I Want to Believe
Where: National Art Museum of China, 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng

When: August 20 - September 2
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 6401 7076

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Borrowing Your Enemy's Arrows, 1998

exhibition

• Shui – Lin Shumin solo exhibi-

in Shuimin is a Taiwan representative artist. As a best known Chinese digital visual artist, he was aot for the Taiwan Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

Where: Chen Ling Hui Contemporary Space, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Until September 14, daily

Monday 11 am – 7 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 6435 9665

Zhao Yang Solo Exhibition

2007

leading Chinese artist, Yin Zha-

g, will be the subject of a

mid-career retrospective at Beijing's Today Art Museum, the artist's first on the Chinese mainland. He masters skillfully to eliminate the background of his paintings while illuminating his motif and thus making a nostalgic statement with his pictorial presence.

Where: Today Art Museum, second and third floor exhibition hall of building 1, 32, Baizhan Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 16 – September 9,

daily 10 am – 5 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 5876 0600

The Great Third Front

The Great Third Front is an

expansion of the series Third

Front which gained worldwide

acclaim and was exhibited by

the Paris-Beijing Phot gallery last autumn.

Where: Paris-Beijing Photo Gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao, Chaoyang

When: Until October 30, daily 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 8459 9263

Multiple Realities

Where: F2 Gallery, 319 Caochangdi, Chaoyang

When: Until September 20, daily

except Monday and Tuesday 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 6432 8831

We Love Comptenporary Art, Too

Where: Red Space, 4 Jiuxianqiao

Lu, Chaoyang

When: Until September 20, daily

except Monday 11 am – 7 pm,

Admission: free

Tel: 13810591004

Ways of Looking at a Blackbird – Kang Jianfei Solo Exhibition

Where: Amelie Art Gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, between Red Gate and White Space Gallery

When: Until September 24, daily

except Monday 11 am – 7 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 6427 7748

The Only – Child Generation NO.3

Where: China Visual Arts Center, Zone D, 1 Art Area, Hegezhuang, Cui-gezhuang, Chaoyang

When: Until September 28, daily

except Monday 9 am – 6 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 6432 6755

The Language of Plates – Chinese contemporary printmaking exhibition

Where: Onemoon Contemporary Art, Ditan Park, Andingmen Wai, Dongcheng

When: Until October 12, daily

except Monday 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 6427 7748

Harmony: East & West – Li Wei Beijing Opera oil painting exhibition

Where: Guanyintang Exhibition Hall of Beijing Wan Fung Art Gallery, 32 Guanyintang, Wangsiying 2A, Chaoyang

When: Until September 1, daily 9

am – 5 pm (Monday-Friday), 10 am – 5 pm (Saturday-Sunday)

Admission: free

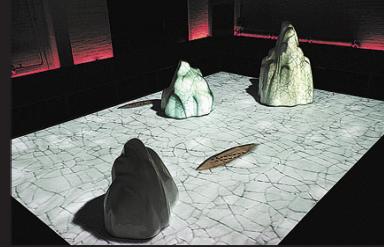
Tel: 6738 9901



Onemoon Contemporary Art



Paris-Beijing Photo Gallery



Chen Ling Hui Contemporary Space

movie

ado de Las Estrellas

Where: Beijing Institute Cer-

ies, A 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoy-

When: August 9-10, 7 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 5879 9666

akasi – Les Samourai des

Modernes

Where: French Culture Center,

Guangcai International Man-

18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 22-24 and 27, 7:30

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

low Green Was My Valley

Where: Minty Bar, 26 Maoer

Hutong, Dongcheng

When: August 25 and 28, 9 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 13810222787

Masters of Documentary

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar, inside the drive-in movie theater park, 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 27, 9 pm

Admission: 10 yuan

Tel: 8196 4820

Life Out Of Balance

Where: Lanyang Bookstore, 3 Shuimo Xinqu, Haidian

When: August 26, 7:30 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 6265 5069

Raiders of the Lost Ark

Where: Club Obiwan, 4 Xihai

Xiyan, Xicheng

When: August 27, 9 pm

Admission: free

Tel: 6617 3231

Nightlife

Sean Paul

The internationally-acclaimed king of dance hall, Sean Paul passes through the city and puts on a great show.

Where: Star Live, 79 Hepin Xi Lu,

Dongcheng

When: August 23, 8 pm

Admission: 180-580 yuan

Tel: 5123 3866

Happy Ending

Dj Partick and the bar's stable of disc-jockeys join forces in giving the audience a happy ending to their Olympic journey.

Where: White Rabbit Club, C2,

Haoyun Jie, 29 Zaoying Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 23, 11 pm

Cost: 50 yuan

Tel: 13321123678

Brain Failure

Where: Mao Live, 111 Gulou Dong

Dajie, Dongcheng

When: August 23, 9 pm

Cost: 50-90 yuan

Tel: 64025080

Cheers for Olympics - Cui Jian Solo Concert

Where: New Get Luck Bar (Haoyun), A1 Xingba Lu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang

When: August 23, 9:30 pm

Admission: 500 yuan

Tel: 8448 3335

Joyside, Carsickcars and Subs

Joyside performs their sleazy glam rock frenzy that has made them the most admired underground band in the city. In addition, Carsickcars rock the stage and Subs will perform violent yet melodic punk.

Where: Yugong Yishan, West Cout-

yard former site of Duan Qirui Government, 2-3 Zhangzizhong Lu,

Dongcheng

When: August 23, 10 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

Continued on page 14 ...

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The skinny on underpants



By Han Manman

When New Zealand writer Joe Bennett bought a five-pack of "Made in China" underpants at his local supermarket for US\$8.59, he wondered who on earth could be making any money, let alone profit, from the exchange. How many processes and middlemen are involved? Where and how were the pants made? And who decides on the absorbent qualities of the gusset?

Bennett, 51, began a journey into China – the factory of the world – and beyond to find out the reason, a trip that birthed his latest book *Where Underpants Come From*.

Starting out in Shanghai, Bennett visited factories where workers from the rural west came to make their fortune, while sleeping in dorm rooms with at least a dozen others and working

12 hours a day sewing seams in underwear. Bennett got more involved with the locals as he got further away from Shanghai, out into the countryside where the elastic bands for his underpants were produced. Bennett gives a balanced account of what he sees in China's factories.

This book gets out of the factories, too. In between the investigative visits, Bennett manages to squeeze in simplified summaries of Chinese language, culture, history, religion and politics into a mere 258 pages. He meets Kiwi expats in Shanghai, entertains Chinese diners with his unpredictable chopstick performances and fights the locals for train tickets and observes how the Chinese elderly are so visible and participate in daily life.

Joe Bennett the author of *Where Underpants Come From*

Where Underpants Come From

In the book, the writer challenges his own prejudices and marvels at the contrasts in one of the world's oldest but fastest changing societies. A side trip to Thailand showed him where the rubber came from, but Bennett returns to China to track down the origins of the fabric.

Having written about 15 books, Bennett is one of New Zealand's most popular columnists, syndicating his views to several newspapers as well as on Stuff.co.nz. He has won three national top columnist awards since he quit his teaching job at Christ's College in 1998 to write a column for *The Press* in Christchurch.

by Bookworm's own teacher-storytellers, to promote a love of reading outside the classroom.

Where: The Bookworm, 4 Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 24, 11 pm

Admission: 30 yuan

Tel: 6586 9507

Book talk

China's erotic literature

Wang Feng from Peking Normal University explores the erotic fiction of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Jinpingmei will also be touched upon.

Where: Chinese Culture Club

(CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: August 28, 7:30-9:30 pm

Cost: 50 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

Kid's club

Kid's books are selected and read

New version of Puccini's *Opera Turnardot*

Who: directed by Chen Xinyi

Where: National Grand Theater Opera Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: August 29-September 2, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-1,280 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Ballet selections by the China National Ballet

Who: China National Ballet

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: August 28-29, 7:30 pm

Admission: 20-100 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

The Peony Pavilion

Who: The Northern Kunqu Troupe

Where: People's Liberation Army Opera House, 60 Deshengmen Nei Dajie, Jishuitan, Xicheng

When: August 27-29, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-380 yuan

Tel: 6773 6623

Zen

Who: directed by Chul-ki Choi

Where: National Grand Theater Opera Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: August 30-31, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-580 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

(By Li Jing)

A techie trip to town

Looking for the right laptop



By Venus Lee

Laptops enjoy tremendous popularity amongst people of all ages, especially white-collar workers and students. Due to its portability, you can take your work wherever you go like school, the library, a coffee house or traveling on trains and planes. But with the plethora of laptop stores out there, it can be daunting to choose the right place to buy the right laptop.

Choosing a brand is always a personal thing. Sometimes it is the look and feel. Other times a personal recommendation sways the buyer.

When people ask for an excellent place to find great electronic and digital products, Zhongguancun usually tops the list. There are several electronic and digital malls in Zhongguancun such as Dinghao, Hailong, E world and Kemao where the concourses have on display various international laptop brands like Apple, Lenovo, Acer, Sony, HP, Samsung, Dell, and MSI on the first and second floors of the malls.

Generally speaking, laptop brands have a uniform retail price which is set by the company, but this is not the lowest price. The laptop companies make allowances for retailers to adjust the selling price, so the price that the retailer posts can be bargained lower by the consumer. The HP 6531s is sold by the Witgroup branch store at Dinghao mall for 13,199 yuan but, it can be bought for 10,599 yuan after a 20 percent discount and a 120GB portable hard disk is added to the deal. The Shenzhoudingtai retailer store in Hailong Mall marks the HP 6531s at 10,999 yuan and offers customers several gifts like a mouse, screen and keyboard membrane. Compared to Witgroup and Shenzhoudingtai, Kemaodongli in Kemao Mall prices the HP 6531s at 9,700 yuan and packs in a mouse and cleaning package, which includes a brush, cloth and cleaning liquid.

Regardless of all these extra perks, the price of any laptop seems cheaper on the Internet. The Web site at zol.com.cn lists the same computer at around 9,800 yuan. The price differences range between 200 and 300 yuan, so you need to research before choosing the proper store.

Either at a retail outlet or online, there is always room for bargaining. Rebate or not, extras should be included in the sale. Ask for them. When you buy laptop during certain festivals, such as National Day and New Year's Day, the price is usually more favorable and the promotional gifts more abundant. Different types of laptops come with different promos like a printer, scanner, webcam, portable hard disk or earphones.

When buying a laptop, the most important thing is to ask for an invoice and product documentation including warranties. Generally, most store will provide three guarantees of free maintenance, replacement or substitution, but these services are not available if you do not produce your purchase receipt, invoice or documentation code. Moreover, the date of purchase must be filled out clearly because the warranty period is calculated in accordance with it.

Dinghao Electronic Shopping Center

Where: Dinghao Building, 1 Zhongguancun Street, Haidian District
Open: 10 am – 8 pm

By Gan Tian

A trip to Beijing should certainly include a visit to the Silk Market and Sanlitun, but visitors might also want to check out the city's computer centers and markets. You may find prices lower than in your home country. Beijing Today offers some suggestions on the best places to shop for laptops, an Apple computer, a camera or parts and hardware.

Build your own computer at Zhongguancun

By Wang Yu

Some may find their personal computers to be antiquated after two or three years. Though the laptop has become the mainstay of the personal computer market because of its portability and fashionable design, a powerful desktop computer is a necessity for the graphic designer, music producer or hardcore game player.

But computers in chain stores may not satisfy your needs for a workstation, and the Mac Pro may be beyond your reach. Why not buy the hardware to build your own computer? In Beijing, Zhongguancun is the place to go.

The country's top digital products trade center, Zhongguancun is famous for its variety. But buyer beware, there are profiteers who will take advantage of your computer ignorance. Research on the Internet before you go to the malls.

One useful Web site is zol.com.cn, where you can collect information on hardware available in Beijing and tips on PC assembly. Make sure you have a clear idea of what kind of computer you need and which hardware must be purchased to build it.

A PC consists of basic hardware such as the motherboard, CPU, sound card, graphic card and RAM. There are differences with common hardware, and the prices may vary also. An Intel Core2 E8200 CPU is a high grade processor clocked at

2.66 Ghz and a cache memory of 6 MB. In these malls you can find two kinds of a certain type of CPU, packaged or loose. All of these are made by Intel, but the packaged version is sold with a CPU fan in a well-labeled box while the loose product is just the processor. The packaged CPU's price may a little bit higher than the loose ones, usually around 100 yuan.

This week, the price of an Intel Core2 E8200 packaged varies from 1,152 to 1,300 yuan, and you can find the cheapest at No.4405 in Dinghao. Other hardware prices here may be a little bit higher, but not much. The Rainbow iGAME4850-GD3 graphic card has a stable price of 1,300 yuan in many of these computer shops. Unlike clothes, shoes, digital cameras or any other goods at the market, computer hardware profits are not high so there is limited room for you to bargain.

For the average user, you don't have to buy different hardware from different shops. Dealing with a single merchant is recommended because it is convenient and you can get discounts. It is advisable to go with a technology-savvy friend who can help you to get a PC which is worth the money.

Hailong Electronic Shopping Center

Where: Hailong Building, 1 Zhongguancun Street, Haidian District
Open: 9 am – 8 pm



Photos by Venus Lee
Continued on page 16 ...

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Sharing your Apple with others



By Gan Tian

Once upon a time it was unlucky to be an Apple fan in China. First of all, you could not find an Apple retail store and even if you had a Macbook or Macbook Air, finding accessories was impossible. Things started to change a month ago when Apple opened its first retail store in Sanlitun. *Beijing Today* has some pointers on how to buy a MacBook in Beijing.

Customers can go to Hailong or Dinghao shopping malls in Zhongguancun, China's Silicon Valley. Just like Dell and Lenovo, Macbook is also displayed in many areas there, but Apple has authorized only a few businesses to sell its products. Most vendors

lack that authorization. So, buyer beware! If a customer buys a MacBook in an unauthorized store, he or she may end up with a *shuihuo*, or "smuggled good." The good thing is you can get a cheaper price at Zhongguancun. The MacBook (MB403CH/A) can be found at some outlets in the Hailong Electronic Shopping Center and priced cheap at 8,190 yuan and even that price can be lowered through some shrewd bargaining.

At some big shopping malls like Shin Kong Place, SOHO Shangdu or Joy City, there are many authorized Apple stores. In these stores, customers can enjoy a more relaxed purchasing environment. The staff will introduce buyers to some of Apple's prod-

ucts but will not be pushy. Customers can also do "test runs" of the equipment in authorized stores at a place called the "Apple Experience Center." A MacBook priced at 11,498 yuan enjoys good after-sale service with a receipt.

The Apple Store in Sanlitun is Apple's first retail store in China and offers the brand's standard customer service. You can tell the staff what you need and they will give you some advice before you buy the product. You can even sign up for a "One-To-One Service," where you can learn how to use an Apple and its software. Even though the store opens at 10 am daily, customers who have bought into this special service can drop in at 9 pm and enjoy a free personal purchasing guide. The products here come at a higher price. The MacBook costs even higher and that is firm.

Wherever you are, whatever choice you make, Apple products never disappoint you.

SOHO Shangdu

Where: 1-1127, West Tower, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am - 10 pm

Tel: 5900 3059

Apple Store

Where: Building 6, Village in Sanlitun, Courtyard 19, Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am - 10 pm

Tel: 6419 8900



Shopping guide for DC dummies

By Milo Lee

Since the digitization of cameras, taking pictures has become a much easier job. With most of the cameras able to automatically detect the right settings, the only thing the casual user has to do is aim and push the button. But choosing the right camera can be a chore. There are so many digital cameras being introduced weekly. *Beijing Today* offers some tips that might help.

When it comes to cameras, Canon is a good choice for beginners. Its years of research in imaging and optical products have made Canon a mogul in the camera business. This reporter visited the famous Wukesong Photographic Equipment City, the capital's largest camera retail center, to check out the latest products.

A lot of people think the more pixels a camera has, the better, but a high resolution picture means more storage space, and most would like to shoot as many pictures as possible on one memory card. Most people do not choose to blow up a picture to the size of a wall, so there is no need to buy a camera with so many megapixels, it will only cost more money. So rule number one is to locate a camera that has the megapixels you need. For most tourists and travelers, 8 megapixels will suffice.

With that in mind, you now need to consider your photography habits and decide what other camera features are particularly important to you. For example, if you love shooting close-ups of flowers or animals, a digital camera with excellent macro photography performance would be a good choice. If you travel a lot and would like to capture a beautiful lady on a faraway mountain, you probably will want to consider a camera with extra zoom capability. So, tell the sales clerk what you need and he or she will show you the most suitable camera.

The aforementioned two points are probably the most important when shopping for a suitable digital camera. If you like to wander and take lots of pictures, then the Canon SX100 is a wise choice. It features 10X optical zoom, 8 megapixels, facial recognition techniques and it is a very slim, reasonably priced model.

Besides Wukesong Photographic Equipment City in the Zhongguancun area, a lot of digital appliance stores also sell photography gear. Be sure to check out Zhongguancun, too.

Wukesong Photographic Equipment City

Where: No. 40, Wukesong Lu, Haidian District (about 2 kilometers north of Wukesong subway station)

When: 9 am - 6 pm

Tel: 8811 9728 8811 9763

Photo by Milo Lee



Fishing for seafood in the north

By Gan Tian

Beijing is one of China's driest cities, so most of its seafood arrives imported from the coast. However, the city does not come up short when you fancy a fish dinner. *Beijing Today* reports on some of the capital's best seafood markets and restaurants.



Fried shrimps

Photo provided by Todai International Seafood and Sushi Buffet

Classy new cuisine and traditional dishes

By Milo Lee

Sihai Kaiyue is one of the capital's most prestigious seafood restaurants. Its specialties, like fins and braised swellfish, have earned it a reputation as a good place for business banquets and family parties.

In the 2005 Grand Cooking Competition, Sihai Kaiyue's chefs won the gold trophy for their creations. Its Gongting Su Baoyu, or Royal Abalone, mixed with mustard and soy sauce, is one of many mouthwatering delicacies. Lobster Sashimi, presented on a dish of ice and seasonings, is sweet, spicy, toasty and crisp. However, be warned that the lobster is still half-alive when served. Do not be surprised if it looks at you.

Besides these delicious dishes, Sihai Kaiyue also serves Cantonese, Korean and Japanese dishes. It explores new cuisine while maintaining tradition. One dish, Stewed Fins in Xiangshui Rice Serum, uses a kind of rice that was an Imperial tribute in the Ming and Qing dynas-

ties. The rice is ground into juice and the fish fins are stewed in it, along with secret ingredients and edible gold foil from Japan. The dish is purportedly good for women's skin.

Sihai Kaiyue has adopted a luxurious setting to match its high-end clientele. The interior design looks like something out of a fairy tale, with traditional decorations in gold and piano music to accompany the meal. The restaurant also has a buffet that serves low-price seafood. Its recreational room has a spa, sauna and game room.

All customers who come to dine in Sihai Kaiyue have reported receiving spectacular service, and the management says everyone leaves with a full stomach and a smile.

Sihai Kaiyue

Where: 105 Huizhong Bei Li, Chaoyang (close to the National Stadium)

Open: 10 am - 3 am the next day

Tel: 6480 6666, 6480 8888



Golden rice with shark's fin

Photo provided by Sihai Kaiyue

Casual bar with fantastic fish

By Zhang Dongya

Classy restaurants may have delicate seafood dishes, but tiny places can match their cuisine in a casual environment.

Located at the Shichahai Bar Street, Huanghuang adopted the fancy name of the area's other cafes and pubs. However, it



Crabs in chili sauce
Photo provided by Huanghuang

is a small restaurant with nine tables and nine staffers including two bosses.

The two bosses, Wang Bing, 29, and Xu Hui, 28, have been friends since college and opened the cafe in May. The two manage everything including bringing in new seafood every morning and receiving guests in the evening.

"We personally attend to our guests to help them order food and recommend the best dishes," Wang said.

The bosses are from

Qingdao, a coastal city in Shandong Province. Qingdao seafood is well known throughout the country as being light and fresh with a unique flavor.

"In my hometown Qingdao, people make seafood at home. We just brought the homemade seafood to the capital. They may not be delicate compared to the food in the big seafood restaurants, [but] they are tasty and palatable," Wang said.

The duo also adopted dishes from other parts of the country, such as Huanghuang Zhaopai Xie, a Nanjing crab dish.

Scallops Steamed with Garlic and Glass Noodles is the restaurant's top dish as recommended by Dianping users. Spicy Sea Whelks and Steamed Shrimps Served with Cask also come recommended by the management.

The tiny restaurant attracts younger diners with its unique decor. The walls are full of lively graffiti from their busy hours of restocking.

Huanghuang

Where: Yi 37 Beiguanfang Hutong, Shichahai, Xicheng

Open: 5 pm - 2 am next day

Tel: 8323 3206

Todai is expensive, but worth it

By Gan Tian

Todai is named for the Japanese word for "lighthouse." This restaurant aims to light the way for diners who enjoy healthy cuisine and a bit of the good life.

The Sushi Bar has 40 kinds of sushi. Its tuna, salmon, yellowtail, eel and sablefish sushi are rolled by hand. They are displayed in the Bar's glass closet, where the temperature keeps them warm. The warm temperature keeps the sushi in line with Chinese dining habits while providing typical Japanese flavor.

The Salad Bar has a strong seaweed flavor. Try the prawn with green bean salad. Todai's prawns are smooth and a little crispy, but the green beans add some color.

Don't forget to order a beer. Besides ordinary coffee, tea, milk and fruit juices, the buffet provides some beers coming from all over the world. Sapporo, Asahi and Kirin are frequently ordered.

Todai has strict health standards. Seafood is selected and cleaned thoroughly. During the meal, staff come from time to time to remove used plates and leftovers.

Its warmly-lit hall can seat 700 diners at once, and there are 11 private rooms for business and get-togethers. Special rooms and service are available for weddings.

Though a little expensive, it can be worth it for the sushi lover.

Todai International Seafood and Sushi Buffet opened its first Beijing branch in Sonala near Chaoyang Park on June 20. The US-based seafood retail buffet has 26 branches around the world.

Todai International Seafood and Sushi Buffet

Where: Northwest corner of Sonala, 6 Chaoyanggongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: Monday to Thursday: 11:30 am - 3 pm, 5:30 pm - 10 pm, Friday to Sunday: 11:30 am - 3 pm, 5:30 pm - 10:30 pm

Tel: 400 899 8899

Cost: Monday to Thursday: 188 yuan for lunch, 258 for dinner, Friday to Sunday: 198 yuan for lunch, 258 yuan for dinner. Children and seniors get half price.



Cranberries dish
Photo provided by Todai International Seafood and Sushi Buffet

Food

BEIJING TODAY

Editor: Gan Tian Designer:Deng Ning

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The market for seafood lovers

By Jin Zhu

For many people, the word "seafood" conjures up images of pricey delicacies like abalone and lobster. However, unlike big and elegant restaurants, the seafood market is a great place to find all grades of seafood at reasonable prices.

As the capital's main distributor of seafood, the Jingshen seafood market contains as many as 600 booths. Many display various kinds of seafood, including lobster, sturgeon and sea crab. Most customers enjoy the lobsters.

"Pull on its whiskers to see if the lobster is still alive, then look for a fresh one with a big tail," Zhang Dandan, an experienced seafood buyer, said. "Most flesh of a lobster is usually in its tail." When purchasing such expensive seafood, bargaining is necessary.

The market is also known for Shiquanfang, a well-known restaurant on its third floor. It serves authentic Guangdong food. After paying for processing, seafood you just purchased in the market can be cooked and served. Steamed sturgeon, braised scallops and sweet corn with crab meat are all worthy recommendations. You can also order a bottle of fresh juice, such as plum or mango juice.

Its processing services keep Shiquanfang regularly booked. It usually takes 30 minutes to get a seat, so more experienced customers reserve a balcony in advance for 30 to 50 yuan.

Jingshen Seafood Market

Where: 232 Shiliu Jie, Fengtai
Open: 9 am - 9 pm
Tel: 6723 8987



Lobster dish

Photo by Jin Zhu

Spicy and seafood

By Han Manman

If you like spicy southern dishes and seafood, then Fei Teng Yu Xiang, one of Beijing's largest restaurant chains, should be your next stop. Fei Teng's dishes combine gourmet Sichuan cooking and fresh seafood.

Red pepper is a key ingredient in most of the restaurant dishes. When served, a mouthwatering aroma of red pepper fills the air. The restaurant's dark walls combined with the use of spot lighting emphasize the colors of its dishes. Ceiling-to-floor curtains separate several dining areas to create a comfortable atmosphere.

Fei Teng Yu Xiang's signature dish is "Shuizhuyu," fresh catfish boiled in chili oil. The dish is famous around the country as the staple of Chongqing chefs and for its unique flavor and taste. The chef who cooks the fish has his own kitchen to which no one else is admitted so he can keep his recipe secret. The 1-kilogram fish is kept alive in an aquarium until cooked. The dish is usually served in a big pot on a bed of bean sprouts with spicy chili on top.

Spicy shrimp, crab, snail, bullfrog and Maoxuewang, a dish of curdled boiled in a spicy sauce, are the most frequent orders.

Fei Teng Yu Xiang carved a niche for itself when it opened its first Beijing outlet and followed it up with branches across the capital. Fei Teng Yu Xiang remains popular with locals, especially from 6 to 7 pm, so arrive early to avoid lines.

Fei Teng Yu Xiang

Where: 1 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang
Tel: 6417 4988
Open: 11 am - 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm - 10:30 pm



Bullfrogs in chili sauce Photo by Tietie

Cantonese master of abalone

By Venus Lee

Lichang Seafood's flagship restaurant, near Haidian Park, offers diners a view of natural landscape with their dinner. Its series of abalone dishes are what has made Lichang Cantonese cuisine so famous.

Abalone is nutritious seafood free of cholesterol. However, cooking it can be a challenge, and cooking it right a sign of mastery. Quality abalone, strict ingredient inspection and proficient processing skills are all a must. The chefs at Lichang have mastered the complex and delicate procedures needed to produce fine abalone.

Their abalone is purchased from North America, especially from Canada, known for high-quality seafood. Due to the cleaner natural environment, most seafood from North American seafood is superior in quality and appearance. In particular, deep sea kelp from the Gulf of Mexico is succulent and fresh.

The cooks come mainly from Hong

Kong and Guangdong. Their cuisine combines three Cantonese branches - Guangzhou, Chaozhou and Dongjiang - while keeping traditional Canton style. The restaurant's most famous dishes are Achang Baoyu, Ganlaochi, Baixuecanglong, Tangjianshehaidai, Lichang toasted goose, Shaozihashugu, Wangzichaofan and Baozhikouandongliaoshen. The major and minor ingredients are dedicatedly assorted and processed, and the seasonings are exquisitely refined.

The restaurant looks like an exhibition building, but it is cozy and comfortable. Aside from the spacious and graceful dinner area, it also has several leisure zones such as a tea house, coffee bar and fruit bar.

Lichang Seafood

Where: 2 Xinjiangongmen Lu, Haidian (west side of the exhibition center)
Open: 11 am - 2 pm, 5:30 pm - 10 pm
Tel: 8885 1388, 8885 1288



Quick-fried abalone with papaya

By He Jianwei

China is catching the world's attention with more than its ancient culture. The contemporary art world is one of the best on the world's stage, with pieces by Chinese artists fetching high prices on the international auction market.

The capital is the hub of the thriving creativity behind this boom, with several major art districts founded in the city's suburbs. *Beijing Today* selected several art districts with the largest collections of domestic and international galleries.

Seeking inspiration in art districts

Songzhuang Town Largest artist community

Chen Danqing, a famous artist returning from abroad, said, the future of the country's fine art is Songzhuang.

Songzhuang Town is the country's largest contemporary artist community. It is north of Tongzhou District and has become an important area to develop the cultural creation industry and the back garden of Tongzhou District. It is the "south door" of the third terminal of Capital International Airport.

There are many cultural resources in Songzhuang Town: nearly 2,500 artists from the areas of painting, sculpture, new media art, film creation, poetry, music composition and writing.

The purpose of the Songzhuang art community is to support an art exchange platform for the creation, exhibition and engagement of avant-garde artists to strengthen the artistic atmosphere to Songzhuang Town.

In 1994, artists Fang Lijun, Liu Wei, Zhang Huiping, Wang Yin and critic Li Xianting came to Songzhuang. Today, Songzhuang has 2,500 artists distributed in its eight villages: Tongli, Liuhe, Daxing, Xindian, Lama, Ren, Beisi and Xiaopu, the community's center.

Artists in Songzhuang are sculptors, conception artists, camorists, dependent producers, new media artists, musicians and free writers. It is the biggest original art group in the nation.

Most of the artists do not have stable jobs and live by selling their work. Some of them have their own houses and gardens, and others rent houses from the locals. The styles of their houses and gardens are as different as the styles of their works.

Far from the mainstream, these artists' works surpass the limitations of skill and show concept and meaning. They reflect the conflict and combination of east and west, tradition and



modern, dream and reality and expresses the artist's concerns about human's nature and reality.

To these artists, Songzhuang is not only a home, but a source of spiritual support. Their love for art, pursuit of freedom and similar goals give them the security of a strong circle.

Some Songzhuang artists are one-in-a-million success stories, and other are geniuses bound for failure. But the record growth of Chinese contemporary art begins with them.

Because of its frequent contact with the outside, Songzhuang is not limited to one location, and has instead become a catch-all term for any art groups near Songzhuang. Most of the artists are active in society as teachers, freelance writers and musicians.

The Artist Village Gallery and Songzhuang Art Museum are its two main spaces. The former is Chen's house and the latter is a large museum run by the critic Li Xianting.

Songzhuang art community was established in 2003. Its annual marketing turnover is about 400 million yuan.



Songzhuang Art Museum



CFP Photo

Artist Village Gallery

Where: North of Renzhuang Village, Songzhuang, Tongxian
Getting there: at Bawangfen, take bus 930 Qujian and get off at Renzhuang station.
Tel: 6959 8343

Photo by Tian Yufeng

Songzhuang Art Museum

Where: Xiaopu Village, Songzhuang, Tongxian
Getting there: take the subway's Batong Line to Tongzhou Beiyuan, then get on bus route 9 or 938 and take it to Meishuguan station
Tel: 8957 8575

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0909 Beijing Caochangdi

East End Art in Caochangdi

Neighbor of 798

Caochangdi is the village next to 798 Art District. A lot of artists founded their studios there, and big galleries occupy its former industrial halls.

East End Art is a newly-developing contemporary art district in northeast Beijing. It hosts national and international artists, arts organizations, galleries and design studios. It is becoming a new art and culture platform for the city.

The area consists of three zones: A, B and C. So far, only zones B and C are open. Zone B is a yard with four two-floor warehouses in it. Zone C is also an old warehouse with a 10-meter ceiling. All the spaces can be divided into small units per request.

East Art Zone opened in 2005 and has 10 art organizations and studios.

Getting there:

Caochangdi area is spread out and easy to get lost in. If you start with the Three Shadows Photography place, you can see the nearby galleries and get directions from its English-speaking staff. The gallery is located on 155 East End Art, Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang. You can call 6432 2663 if you get lost, or if the taxi driver is unsure of where to go, and staff will provide directions.



798

798 Art District

An early rise to fame



Graffiti wall in 798

CFP Photos

Getting there:

798 Art District is in Dashanzi area of Chaoyang District. No subway serves the area, but there are many bus stops. You can come take buses 401, 402, 405, 909, 973, 988 or 991 to the Dashanzi Lukou Nan stop. The district is on the east side of the road. There is a sign for 798 at the entrance.

By Jackie Zhang

Beijing's best-known art district, 798, got its start in 2000 when artists began to rent rooms in the area for their studios.

Mottled red-brick walls, scattered orderly industrial plants, crisscrossing pipelines and slogans from past eras are the first sights to greet visitors to the area. You'll see both uniformed workers in the area's small factories and fashionable visitors.

The 798 Art Zone lies in the 718 factory of Beijing Sevenstar Science and Technology in Chaoyang District. The area assembles many cultural elements such as galleries, design studios, art exhibition spaces, artists' studios, fashion shops and restaurants.

The area occupied by Beijing 798 Art Zone was the former joint equipment factory of North China, which was designed and built by experts from former East Germany in the 1950s. A German architectural institution in Dessau, the same city as the origin of the Bauhaus school, was in charge of the design. The factory was designed in the Bauhaus spirit of meeting practical demands.

In April, 1964, the organizational system of 718 was canceled and factories 706, 707, 718, 797, 798 and 751 were established, which were reorganized and incorporated into Sevenstar Group at the end of 2000. As part of the Dashanzi Area reform, Sevenstar Group began to offer short-term leases of the plants. Attracted by the orderly design, convenient traffic and unique Bauhaus style, many art organizations and artists came to rent the vacant plants and transform them into a district of galleries, studios, cultural companies and fashion boutiques.

In 798 Art Zone, there are nearly 400 organizations from France, Italy, Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Japan, Australia, South Korea, China, Hong Kong and other regions.

A number of famous art institutions and fashion enterprises are located in 798. Many important international art exhibitions, art activities and fashion shows are held there, which draw in movie stars and celebrities.

Every April and May, the 798 Art Festival is held in the zone. In 2004, the first Art Festival

attracted artists and organizations to participate. Visitors can enjoy various artistic works and installations from different artists at once. Since 2004, the 798 Art Festival has been an important yearly event.

In the art zone, there are many organizations, galleries and shops run by foreigners. The Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), for example, is run by Guy and Myriam Ullens, two lovers of contemporary art. They opened the center last year as a non-profit, comprehensive art center to present exhibitions of established and emerging artists.

Time Zone 8 Book Store is run by an Robert Bernell from the US. He also has another book store in Moganshan Art District in Shanghai. Time Zone 8 sells original art books in English, and also serves food and drink to its customers.

The decorations and interior design of many 798 galleries, stores and studios are attractive and colorful. Sculptures are scattered throughout the zone. For people who like to take photos and professional photographers, it is a great place to find inspiration.

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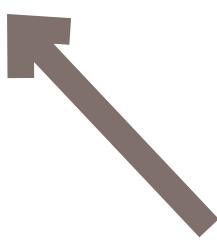
Unlike 798 Art District, Jiuchang Art District is a quiet place free of tourists, noisy restaurants and bars. There are only a few visitors in the zone every day. The zone is next to the Jingcheng (Beijing to Chengde) Expressway.

Located beside the China Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA), the district is built on the ruins of the former Chaoyang Winery. Green trees and pools with waterlilies lend a fresh feeling to the district. Two sculptures of the former brewery and two wine quality examiners remain there.

In October, 2006, Jiuchang Art District was launched. The Arario Gallery from South Korea was the first organization to enter the district. Established in 1989, Arario is considered one of the biggest collectors. It is at the key position in the district, with three exhibition halls and five buildings.

Following Arario, many other organizations and galleries entered the district successively. Many professors from CAFA and artists returning from abroad also started their careers in the district.

Cartoon-making institutions in the district are another interesting stop. Jiuchang houses the core development center for the domestic cartoon industry.



Jiuchang Art District on the ruins of a winery



CFP Photos

Getting there:

For people who drive their own cars, follow Jingcheng Expressway and exit at Wangjing Scientific Park and turn left. The district is near Beihuqu Bridge. If going by bus, take either 976, 913, 629, 630 or Yuntong 117 and get off at the Beihuqu stop.

Huantie Art District Boxed in by the rail loop



You may have noticed the circle in the northeast of most Beijing maps. The circle marks a railway loop.

Many people have wondered what purpose the rails serve. The ring is actually the testing site of the national railway center. The 9-kilometer loop was built in 1958 and is the country's only railway testing site.

Huantie is a strange place for most of people compared to 798. But because of its special location, it acts as a connecting point for 798, Songzhuang and Caochangdi Art districts. The number of artists and organizations entering the district has continued to rise.

Many art districts face the question of how to develop an artistic and creative atmosphere and commercial environment in tandem. As 798 Art District is close to the downtown, big and small galleries and tourists can frequently pour into the district. That's why many artists who do not like to be influenced by a commercial atmosphere and tourists are abandoning it. Huantie area offers cheaper rent and a quieter space that is still not too far from 798.

Entering Huantie may involve a long wait, as the train runs past the gate every five minutes. When the light at the entrance turns green, you can enter the district. It is forbidden to photograph in Huantie, and guards pounce on anyone who attempts to sneak out a camera. If you are lucky, you can see different types of trains running in circles from 9 am to 7 pm.

In Huantie, there are forests, grasslands and farmland. It can be easy to get disoriented inside the ring.

Houses in the area used to be storage sites for railway goods. After 2004, artists began to rent the homes.

The rent is cheap and the district is not far from 798. Many artists work in studios in Huantie and sell their pieces in galleries in 798.

There is a railway museum in the area with 60 engines and trains that are considered cultural relics.



Getting there:

Drive northeast along Jiuxianqiao Bei Lu to the toll-gate beside a railway. It is the entrance to the Huantie Art District. If you go by bus, take 403, 629 or any bus that stops at Huanxingtiedao.





Are you winning the war for talent?

By **Luke Lombe**

China is currently experiencing a level of growth and development the likes of which has never been seen before. As the world's largest population transitions towards an open market economy, a myriad of opportunities and challenges are confronted. Local and multinational companies are racing to establish a foothold in the Chinese market and secure their place in what, over the next 25 years, will become the world's largest economy. Ironically, given its 1.3 billion inhabitants, one of the most perplexing challenges facing companies in China is the undersupply of qualified and capable talent to drive this growth into the next decade. Dubbed the 'War for Talent', HR professionals China-wide are struggling with staff acquisition and retention as employees make excessive demands and job-hop from position to position at unsettling rates.

So how does one attract and retain the best staff?

In order to differentiate oneself from his competitors it is important for all organizations to be very clear when they are communicating their Employment Value Proposition (EVP). The EVP is a statement of why the total work experience at your organisation is superior to that of your competitors. Here are the

top three desirable characteristics for the EVP.

1. Inspirational Management & Leadership

Many employees are motivated by the chance to work with a strong team and dynamic leaders. The direct line manager of prospective employees will be working very closely with the new staff, so it is important that a positive match is made. Articulating and demonstrating to one's potential employees that the existing team and leadership is one that will provide the right kind of support network for personal development can be extremely advantageous during the recruitment process.

2. Clear Opportunities for Advancement

More than ever, people need to see where their career is heading. The country's talent market is replete with motivated, driven and career-hungry individuals who recognize that the current economic and social conditions are allowing for a much more rapid pace of career development. Together with clear career path planning, development and training to equip employees with the skills to advance their careers is vital. It is important to approach training and development strategically, so that it links in with business objectives and also with

the personal growth ambitions of the individuals. When one offers a clear path for advancement and the training required to support that advancement is clearly articulated, one has a much better chance of attracting and retaining talent.

3. Brand & Reputation

Ranking highly in the employee wish list is the reputation and brand of the company. Now, before those of you working at Fortune 500 companies start popping the champagne corks, there is much more to reputation and brand than just the company name. Reputations and brands are built on credibility and trust and in order to build credibility and earn trust, you must follow through on all aspects of your EVP.

In these increasingly competitive times, it is essential that new recruits are provided with as many reasons as possible to join and stay with your company. Identifying the key criteria important to your potential employees is important when establishing why you are an employer of choice. Attraction and retention will continue to be a challenge for HR managers all over China over the coming years so it is imperative that you make every effort to ensure that you offer the right combination of benefits and you engage the right approach to recruitment.



Luke Lombe

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Where you can get Beijing Today



Vasco's

Vasco's, one of the only Macanese restaurants in Beijing, features Portuguese, Chinese, Indian and Mediterranean cooking techniques. An a la carte menu offers selections that are light and healthy with a lot of flavor. Its "show kitchen" shows diners how their meals will be prepared.

Beijing's first ever water master awaits you to share his knowledge on the particular characteristics that give various bottled waters their unique flavors, as well as recommended food pairings, stemware suggestions and optimum serving temperatures for enjoying both still and sparkling waters.

Where: Vasco's, Hilton Beijing Wangfujing, 8 Wangfujing Dong Dajie, Dongcheng
Tel: 5812 8888



The square moon cake

This moon cake comes in three flavors from peanuts to egg white and cheese. Large orders receive discounts.

Where: Novotel Beijing West Zhongguancun, 36 Haidian Nanlu, Haidian
Cost: 198 yuan
Tel: 8266 9999-5905



Garden of hearts

As sweet osmanthus blossoms and the moon grows full, another Mid-Autumn Festival approaches. Jianguo Garden Hotel presents a premium selection of moon cakes for the enjoyment of you and your family.

Where: Jianguo Garden Hotel, 17 Jianguomen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng
Cost: 158-218 yuan
Tel: 6528 6666-20105 or 20209



Setting a new tradition

Hotel New Otani Changfugong offers a butter moon cake series, a Guangdong-style moon cake series.

Where: Hotel New Otani Changfugong, 26 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang
Cost: 188-398 yuan
Tel: 5877 5602, 5877 5603



Low-sugar and kiddie moon cakes

For the health conscious, low sugar moon cakes are highly recommended. However, do not worry about the feast you could be missing, for a variety of low-sugar flavors awaits, including low-sugar green tea and red bean paste as well as low-sugar taro paste. In addition, Fun Moon, a unique moon cake package especially created for kids is also on offer.

Where: The Westin, Beijing Financial Street, B9 Financial Street, Xicheng
Cost: 138-558 yuan
Tel: 6629 7777, 6606 8866 ext. 777



Renaissance moon cake

Choose a splendid variety of packaged moon cake gift sets, with an array of traditional Beijing style and Cantonese style. Extra discount is available for bulk purchase.

Where: Renaissance Beijing Hotel, 36 Xiaoyun Lu, Chaoyang
Cost: 118-488 yuan
Tel: 6468 9999 ext. 3102 or 3131



(By Li Jing)

Nightlife On The Waters Of Houhai

By Jackie Zhang

Houhai is a popular area and a must-see for most foreigners visiting the city. Its trendy bars, restaurants, cool lake and traditional hutong satisfy most visitors' cravings for Chinese food, music and live performances.

Although commonly called Houhai, the area includes the three regions surrounding Houhai, Qianhai and Xihai. The waters have been a busy district since Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). During Yuan times, Shichahai was a busy business area with stores and restaurants.

Many of the streets in use today also date back to Yuan, as do the Ya'er, Yandai Xiejie and the Nan and Bei Guanfang hutong. The area also boasts the residences of many famous historical figures.

Stop to visit some traditional courtyard homes, or "siheyuan," during your next cafe or bar crawl through this cultural neighborhood.

Touch

By Chu Meng

This classy little lounge is sandwiched between the raucous venues of Houhai: part modern and part classical Chinese. Balcony seating offers a good view of the crowds below. Most of the patrons are well-heeled locals there to quaff Chivas.

Set slightly apart from the venues crammed onto the lakeshore, this quiet retreat takes advantage of its large patio and garden space to host

speed dating for English speakers, free language classes and beer pong. It serves standard "Italian" Houhai fare with a pricey drink list — perfect for beer pong on a quiet afternoon.

Happy hour runs from 6 to 9 pm with buy-one-get-one-free drinks. Enjoy French music, food and drinks, and if you get lucky, a French kiss.

Where: 8 Qianhai Bei Yan

Open: 1 pm – 6 am next day

Tel: 6616 0809

Cost: 50 yuan per person



Have your happy party with friends in Touch.

Golder Titian



Photos by Simon Lim/Wang Weiwei

By Chu Meng

Set in an expansive, comfortable space open to the lake, this well-stocked bar hosts nightly live music with hip covers. It boasts an extensive menu of Western foods, champagnes and red and white wines along with staple booze. It caters mostly to local high rollers, and is the perfect stop for live jazz and champagne.

With dark wood paneling and floor-to-ceiling windows, this jazz club

defines rugged sophistication. It was started by Liu Yue, Cui Jian's former saxophonist, and is the most authentic jazz joint in town.

The beat goes down every weekend. The performances range from inspirational to formulaic, but always very engaging.

Where: 83 Yandai Xi Jie

Open: 2 pm – 4 am next day

Tel: 8404 7171

Cost: 80 yuan per person

The Buffalo, Lotus Lake's biggest bar

By Annie Wei

At first glance, The Buffalo's purple-colored sign opposite Yashow Market looks like a real estate ad.

The bar manager said the bar's name comes from the stone buffalo, a symbol of fortune and grain in the US Midwest. The owner originally intended to build a haunted house under the name for local celebrities, so the Lotus Lake Market has two Buffalo locations: one past and one future.

Many bars use cheap decorations,

but The Buffalo sank a real chunk into its interior. Each chair and table is made from hundred-year-old wood, placing the value of each chair in excess of 1,000 yuan. Its many hanging green plants and lace create a "mysterious" Southeast Asian style.

The most special object in the bar is the ice container. The manager said its only match is in a Las Vegas casino. The basement's big and small candles and floating water lilies add to the mysterious atmosphere.

On the weekends, the bar attracts many visitors to enjoy a Houhai evening. The newly-expanded areas of Buffalo are decorated in various styles. The spacious interior offers a retreat from the lake's wandering crowds.

Where: 6 Hehua Shichang

Open: 11 am –

late night

Tel: 6617 2146



Buffalo's tables along the lake side are romantic choice at night time at dinner.

Other hot spots

Zone China Bar

A Macao chef is behind this pub's special flavor. But you can taste typical Macao Baozaifan, salty rice cooked under the pot. One special seat in the center of the pub is slightly raised. Patrons can take off their shoes, climb up the steps, plop down, lean back and look up at the bamboo roof. It is a great place to nurse a cup of java and chat with friends.

Lotus Blue

This romantic Thai bar is a favorite of many girls. At night, red candles are lit at each table. The second floor offers a wide view of Qianhai Lake. Lights from the restaurants and bars are reflected on the water.

Lotus Blue was designed with the story *Tin-tin's Destination Adventure* in mind. Come in to hunt for clues.

Loveshine Cafe

This bar is located at Houhai Beiyuan and has comfortable sofas. Unlike others in the area, it is very quiet. The bar owners screen movies in the evening. On slow nights, patrons can pick which movie to watch.

La Baie Des Anges

Two French brothers, Olivier Six and Benjamin Six, opened La Baie Des Anges, a popular spot for wine-loving expats. The brothers organize wine-tasting parties, live performances and theme parties. Its good reputation is drawing more and more Chinese crowds.

Club BLT

This club is a great place to make friends. Yinding Bridge used to be called Yinyuan Bridge, the bridge of love, in ancient times. It was said that lovers who went across the bridge hand in hand would be together forever. Club BLT is a couple hundred meters from the bridge, and its bar hosts many performances. There are telephones at every table in the club.

Patrons can phone any other table to get to know its occupants without an awkward walk across the bar.

(By Jackie Zhang)

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1. Hui Xian Tang

Where: 13 Beihai Qian Yan
Open: 6 pm – 2 am next day
Tel: 6617 6221/ 6657 2971

2. Touch bar

Where: No. 8 Qianhai Bei Yan
Open: 1 pm – 6 am next day
Tel: 6616 0809

3. Purple Bar

Where: 7 Beihai Qian Yan
Open: 1 pm – 4 am next day
Tel: 6612 5700

4. Zhao Jiu Wan Wu

Where: 3 Beihai Qian Yan
Open: 11 am – 3 or 4 am next day
Tel: 6617 0091

5. Feiyu Bar

Where: 12 Yindingqiao Hutong
Open: 4 pm – 2 am next day
Tel: 6611 1800

6. Hong Yuan Nan Men Hot Pot

Where: 1 Nanguangfang Hutong
Open: 11 am – 2 pm, 5 pm – midnight
Tel: 6616 7033

7. Chao Long Ge

Where: 4 Qianhai Nan Yan
Open: 2 pm – 2 am next day
Tel: 6618 6270

8. Yin Hai Xuan

Where: 5 Qianhai Nan Yan
Open: 11 am – 2 am next day
Tel: 6616 7970

9. Hai Quan

Where: 10 Qianhai Nan Yan
Open: 1 pm – 2 am next day
Tel: 6615 9456

10. Thirty-one Coffee

Where: 16 Houhai Nan Yan, northwest of Yinding Bridge
Open: 4 pm – 3 am next day
Tel: 6616 4210

11. Red Bar

Where: 29 Houhai Nan Yan
Open: 8 pm - 2 am next day
Tel: 6613 2023

12. Lily Bar

Where: 18 Houhai Nan Yan
Open: 2 pm – 2 am next day
Tel: 6612 1518

13. Amber Bar

Where: 18 Houhai Nan Yan
Open: 2 pm – 2 am next day
Tel: 6613 0844

14. Hutong Xieyi Bar

Where: 8 Houhai Nan Yan
Open: 4 pm – midnight
Tel: 6615 8691

15. Aroma Bar

Where: Houhai Nan Yan
Open: 1:30 pm – 2:30 am next day
Tel: 6657 0752

16. Oasis Bar

Where: 37 Beiguangfang Hutong, Houhai Nan Yan
Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 138 1015 2564

17. Ye Se Yan Yi Bar

Where: 75a Yandai Xiejie
Open: 10 am – 1:30 am next day
Tel: 8404 0616

18. Kaorouji Restaurant

Where: 14 Qianhai Dong Yan
Open: 11am – 9:30 pm
Tel: 6404 2554

19. No Name

Where: 1 Dajinsi Hutong
Open: 11 am – late
Tel: 6618 6061, 6401 8541

20. Houhai Paradise

Where: 31 Di'anmen Wai Dajie
Open: 3 pm – late
Tel: 8401 5076

21. Dihou Yuan

Where: first floor of Huapu Super Market, Di'anmen Wai Dajie
Open: 1 pm – 3 am next day
Tel: 6400 7081

22. Shuaifu Restaurant

Where: 19 Qianhai Bei Yan
Open: 10:30 am – 2 am next day
Tel: 6618 5348

23. Quanjude Roast Duck

Where: 57 Di'anmen Xidajie, inside the Shishahai Sports School
Open: 9 am – midnight
Tel: 6617 1570, 6612 8557

24. Sex and Da City

Where: 51-5 Di'anmen Xidajie
Open: 4 pm – 2 am next day
Tel: 6612 5046

25. Lotus Blue

Where: 51-6 Di'anmen Xidajie
Open: 11:30 am – 2 am next day
Tel: 6617 2599

26. South Silk Road

Where: 12-13 Lotus Lake Market, 19 Qianhai Xi Yan
Open: 11 am – midnight
Tel: 6615 5515

27. Yue Lu

Where: Lotus Lake Market, 19 Qianhai Xi Yan
Open: 11 am – 1:30 am next day
Tel: 6617 2696

28. Jia Ding Fang

Where: Lotus Lake Market, 9 Qianhai Xi Yan
Open: 10 am – 3:30 am next day
Tel: 6612 9898

29. Water of Life Bar

Where: 51-8 Xidajie Di'anmen
Open: 5 pm – midnight
Tel: 6617 1381

30. Buffalo

Where: 6 Hehua Shichang
Open: 11 am to late night
Tel: 6617 2146

31. Wan Rong Hua

Where: 15-16 Di'anmen Xi Dajie
Open: 11 am – 2 am next day
Tel: 6617 1740

32. Golden Titian Cafe

Where: 83 Yandai Xiejie
Open: 1:30 pm – 2 am next day
Tel: 8404 7171

33. Ou Bar Thai Restaurant

Where: 32 Yandai Xiejie

Open: 11 am – midnight
Tel: 8402 7728

34. No 5 Houhai

Where: 5 Houhai Bei Yan
Open: 10:30 am – 5 am next day
Tel: 6406 1900

35. Club-BLT

Where: 6 Ya'er Hutong
Open: 1 pm – 3 am next day
Tel: 8400 2085

36. Ba Gua

Where: Bing 6, Ya'er Hutong, Houhai
Open: 2 pm – 2 am next day
Tel: 6401 8080

37. Loveshine Cafe

Where: 12 Houhai Bei Yan
Open: 1 pm – 3 am next day
Tel: 8400 2941

38. Ruguo Bar

Where: 12 Houhai Bei Yan
Open: 1 pm – 2 am next day
Tel: 8402 2858

39. Fuku Restaurant

Where: 4a Binhai Hutong, Deshengmen Nei Dajie
Open: 9:30 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6402 4093

40. Water Nymph Cafe

Where: 4 Houhai Xi Yan
Open: noon – 2 am next day
Tel: 8403 1687

41. Aladdin Bar

Where: 4 Houhai Xi Yan
Open: 12 pm – midnight
Tel: 6400 9561
Average cost: 100 yuan

42. Zone China Bar

Where: 12 Houhai Xi Yan
Open: 1 pm - midnight
Tel: 8403 1419
Cost average: 50 – 100 yuan above

43. La Baie Des Anges

Where: 5 Nanguangfang Hutong
Open: 6 pm – 2 am next day (closed on Monday)
Tel: 6657 1605

(By Jackie Zhang)